



Waldorf settlement sought by Yard

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard is negotiating to pay Mr Steven Waldorf damages in an out of court settlement for the injuries he received in a police operation last January, a senior Scotland yard officer said yesterday.

Assistant Commissioner Geoffrey Dear, speaking after the acquittal this week of two detectives on charges involving the shooting of Mr Waldorf, said that a settlement of the damages was "expected quite soon". Discussions have been held between legal advisers for the police and Mr Waldorf but a final figure has yet to be agreed.

During the trial at the Central Criminal Court, Mr Waldorf said he had not been told by doctors of any permanent disability after an attack during which he was hit by five bullets and struck across the head. The court was told he had been critically ill at one point and one injury "was potentially lethal".

There has been speculation that the claim may be as high as £1m. but Scotland Yard would not comment on figures yesterday and Mr Waldorf's legal adviser was not available for comment.

Mr Dear disclosed the possibility of a settlement while speaking on BBC radio yesterday as several Labour MPs made calls for a public inquiry into the circumstances of the shooting.

The Police Federation has promised its members that the present guidelines for the police use of guns would be examined and discussed with the Home Office.

Mr Dear, the head of personnel and training at Scotland Yard, said the shooting, after Mr Waldorf was mistaken for David Martin who was at the time a dangerous fugitive, had sent "a shock wave through the police service".

He said the reaction of policemen to the incident and the case was not "a shoot first, ask questions later policy. It has so shocked the police they are much less likely to open fire in similar circumstances".

Mr Dear added that it was unlikely there was anything in the police rules on firearms which needed changing but "it is much a question of selection and training".

He said the policemen acquitted on Wednesday had never apologized to Mr Waldorf because their legal advisers had told them to say nothing. The men are now the subject of an internal police discipline inquiry that is likely to centre on whether they broke orders and rules during the shooting.

Mr Waldorf never made an official complaint to Scotland Yard about the incident.

Chancellor allows no respite in inflation struggle

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor, said last night there could be "no relaxation of the pressure to keep inflation moving down".

The Stock Exchange Council took the first step in ending minimum commissions by introducing negotiated rates on overseas securities. (Page 13)

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Bank of England Governor, said failure to keep up the pressure on inflation would damage Britain's prospects.

Lord Whitelaw will preside over a "star chamber" Cabinet group charged with reducing the £1,000m public spending overshoot for 1984-85.

By Frances Williams and Peter Wilson-Smith

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, last night made plain the Government's unwavering determination to reduce inflation further through tight control of state borrowing and monetary growth.

He told the distinguished audience gathered for the Lord Mayor's banquet in the City of London that there could be "no relaxation of the pressure to keep inflation moving down".

The Chancellor's remarks were strongly supported by Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, in his first big speech since taking office in July.

"Nothing would be more damaging to our prospects than failure to sustain the improvement in inflationary expectations, so painfully won", he said.

Mr Lawson was optimistic on inflation prospects, scolding predictions that inflation will rise next year. On the contrary, recent indicators suggested a continuing downward path, he said.

The Government's message was: "We mean what we say; and we mean to keep on top of inflation".

The present inflation rate of 5 per cent would have been thought too high 20 years ago and it was too high, the Chancellor said. He repeated the Conservatives' election manifesto pledge that the Government's ultimate objective was price stability.

Mr Lawson said the picture of the British economy was one of improvement. Of falling inflation and renewed growth. World recovery, too, was clearly under way, and the prospects for continued growth next year and beyond looked good, although high interest rates and international debt remained uncertainties.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said the prospects for growth were better than for years. The international debt crisis was still a preoccupation, while at home unemployment was still edging up and many companies were facing difficulties.

"But we now have low inflation combined with economic recovery and this offers the prospect of sustained improvement for the first time in many years," he said.

On a gloomier note, the Governor admitted that the international debt crisis could take years to solve and there were likely to be more difficult problems ahead.

"A durable and satisfactory solution to the debt problem may take a number of years to achieve, and will require perseverance and success on a number of fronts".

The Governor, who was echoed by Mr Lawson, said firm adjustment policies by debtor countries, sustained recovery in the West and a continued flow of finance to the developing world were all needed.

But he gave a warning that banks would not be able to lend money at the rate they had in the past. "Banks now need to strengthen balance sheets, liquidity and capital ratios," he said and suggested that borrowing countries encourage a bigger flow of direct private investment to meet their need for long-term finance.

The Chancellor devoted most of his speech, a typical mixture of optimism and severity, to the operation of the Government's monetary and financial policies. He emphasized that he did not intend to change policy objectives. "Our success in reducing inflation and creating the conditions for output growth demonstrates that there should be no change in the overall strategy."

The Chancellor made it clear that the medium term financial strategy (MTFS), which sets declining targets for money growth and public borrowing several years ahead, would still mark the cornerstone of the Government's economic policy. "The MTFS is alive and well", he said.

The Government would aim to reduce both money growth and state borrowing further "over the medium term".

And the Chancellor repeated, for the benefit of Cabinet "wets", that this required "continued strict control of government spending... a task not just for today but throughout this Parliament and beyond."

Mr Lawson did, however, outline some technical changes he is now reviewing after an internal review of money policy. Contrary to "some ill-informed speculation", there would be no target for the exchange rate nor "any complicated mechanical formula linking it with other indicators."

But he was considering introducing a new narrow money measure - M0 or monetary base, consisting almost entirely of notes and coins in circulation - which recent evidence suggested would be less distorted than broader measures as a guide to decision on interest rates.

Business News, page 13

'Star chamber' will decide the cuts

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Cabinet took only a few minutes yesterday to agree to a "star chamber" procedure under which Lord Whitelaw, the Lord President, will attempt to whittle down the outstanding £1,000m overshoot for public expenditure in 1984-85.

It was said yesterday that Lord Whitelaw would sit with a few other Cabinet colleagues in adjudicating between the demands of the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Peter Rees, and recalcitrant ministers such as Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

Whitehall sources refused to identify the other members of the committee, but it was said that they were not generally spending ministers. That would make Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, and Lord Cockfield, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, prime candidates for the task.

Before the procedure was nodded through, the Cabinet received an oral report from Mr



Royal joke: the Queen attending the christening of Princess Theodora, daughter of King Constantine and Queen Anne-Marie of the Hellenes at the St Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Bayswater, London, yesterday (Photograph: John Voos).

Grenada Army imposes shoot-on-sight curfew

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain

Grenada was under the firm control yesterday of its highly politicized armed forces, after the killing of Mr Maurice Bishop, the Prime Minister, and between five and nine other people, including three ministers, on Wednesday.

A 24-hour curfew was in force and the islanders were told not to leave their homes until Monday, General Hudson Austin, commander of the Army, gave a warning on Radio Free Grenada that anyone violating the curfew would be shot on sight.

Many parts of the island were reported to be without water or electricity, most telephone lines were cut and the Caribbean News Agency correspondent, Mr Alister Hughes, a Grenadian, who provided most of the unofficial information during the week-long political crisis, was detained by security forces.

Accounts of Wednesday's killings conflict sharply, but it is believed that a large crowd, estimated at 3,000 to 4,000, marched to Mr Bishop's residence on Mount Royal

above the capital, St George's, between 9.30 am and 10.30 am. Led by Mr Unison Whitman, who resigned as Foreign Minister on Tuesday, they met only a light military guard which fired warning shots into the air. They stormed the house and freed Mr Bishop and Miss Jacqueline Creff, who had resigned as Education Minister, and took them down the hill into St George's towards Fort Rupert, the old British garrison overlooking the city harbour, where army officers loyal to Mr Bishop are thought to have been detained.

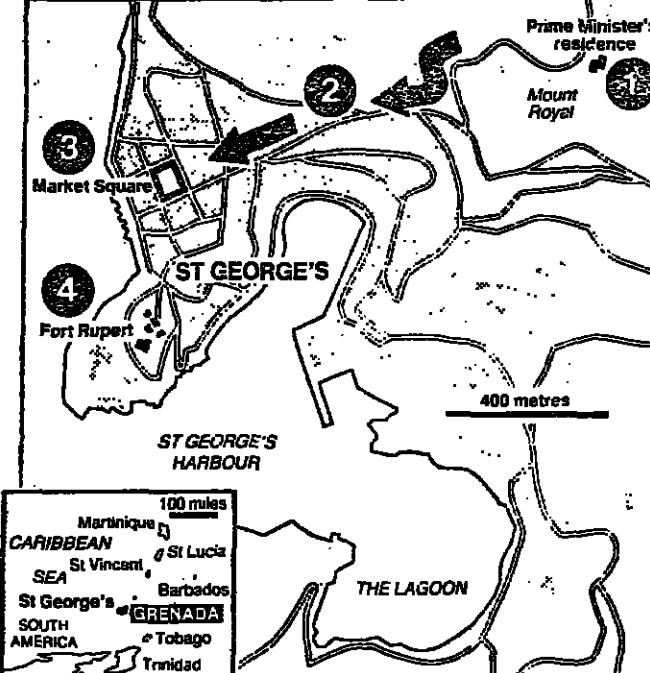
The idea was to free the officers and then march to Radio Free Grenada, where Mr Bishop would address the people for the first time since being placed under house arrest last week after his confrontation with the Central Committee of the ruling New Jewel Movement.

Radio Free Grenada went off the air, however, and as the crowd gathered at Fort Rupert, soldiers arrived in armoured cars and opened fire on the demonstrators.

Mr Bishop, marching at the head of the crowd, was among several injured or killed, and Miss Creff was apparently beaten. Mr Bishop was shot in the leg and taken with several other people to hospital.

Several hours later, between 9.30 and 10 pm, Radio Free

Continued on back page, col 7



- 9.30-10.30am (local time) Oct 19: Thousands surround official residence of Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, and free him from house arrest.
10.30-12.30: Crowd carry Bishop in triumph towards town centre.
1.00: Army arrive, according to some witnesses, fire into crowd and lead Bishop away.
1.00: Other witnesses said Bishop and some of crowd marched to Fort Rupert, Army HQ. Soldiers opened fire.
Army, says Bishop and crowd capture Army HQ, disarm soldiers and fire on other soldiers sent to reason with them; Bishop dies in exchange of fire.

Tomorrow

Tout de... After the summit meeting between Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterrand, the cordiale is the entente? Henry Staphope reports.



Sweet Alan Hamilton buzzes off to discover the secrets of the beekeepers and honey makers.

Sentimental... Roy Strong finds old fashioned romance flourishing among the skyscrapers and motorways of modern Britain.

Journey Proof that you can take a baby on an aeroplane without having a nervous breakdown.

Doctors told of pill change

As a result of studies apparently linking birth control pills with cancer, the Committee on Safety of Medicines has decided to advise doctors that women taking the pill should be prescribed a type with the lowest suitable hormone content. The Department of Health, however, said that it would be unnecessary to interrupt a monthly cycle of treatment. Research links, page 2

Nissan move may clinch deal

Nissan is believed to have revised its plans for a £500m British car plant and the go-ahead may be announced soon. Page 2

Tunnel snags

The Channel tunnel could be entirely privately financed, but companies involved would seek guarantees which the Government is not prepared to give. Page 2



Budget saving

The European Commission is adopting tough good management measures to save as much as £283m from this year's EEC budget. Page 5

Reagan pledge

President Reagan has pledged that the US will stand firm on the Middle East and deploy nuclear weapons in Europe on Schedule. Page 5

Scots oil slick

A thirty-mile oil slick off the west of Scotland is affecting the islands of Coll and Tiree, where 150 dead seabirds, mainly guillemots, have been washed ashore.

Anger over bid

The bid for the Eagle Star insurance company by Allianz, of West Germany, has angered British insurers who suffer severe restrictions on their operations in West Germany. Page 13

Letters: on US foreign policy, from Sir John Whitmore; custodial sentencing, from Professor N Walker, and Mr P J Richardson

Leading articles: Public spending; Grenada; Transport Features, pages 8,10

Question marks over battlefield nuclear weapons; The future of the Daily Mirror; Britain's Falklands opportunity; Spectrum: How the PLO fell apart; Friday Page; Remembering Gerard Hoffing; Medical Briefing

Obituary, page 12: Mr Maurice Bishop, Professor Eric Casson.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Appis, Arts, Business, Chess, Court, Crossword. Sub-headers: Daily, Law Report, Motoring, Sale Room, Science, Sport, TV & Radio, Weather.

Tougher penalties for big spenders Jenkin squeezes the cities

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

The Government gave notice yesterday that it will squeeze the high spending, Labour-controlled city councils harder than ever in the rates settlement for 1984-85.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced that he is to penalize overspending councils so severely that several London councils, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield may join the Greater London Council and Camden in receiving no rate support grant.

But Mr Jenkin is trying to ensure that rate rises will be low for councils that toe the spending line. He has increased the total money in the grant to £11,800m, £90m more than the previous year.

For councils spending above their targets, the Government will hold back grants at the rate of 2p per £1 of rateable value for the first 1 per cent overspent, rising to 4p for the second 1 per cent, 8p for the third and 9p for the fourth.

The style as much as the content of this government move is likely to annoy councils. Instead of convening the Consultative Council on Local Government Finance, where municipal leaders are formally represented, Mr Jenkin chose to make his announcement only to council officials who had gone to the Environment Department for a routine meeting.

The Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities last night condemned "Mr Jenkin's total contempt for agreed procedures" and criticized the impact of the penalties on impoverished inner city councils.

The exact effect on ratepayers of the new penalty schedule will be difficult to assess until councils start deciding their budgets. It seems, however, that most of the Conservative counties and many non-metropolitan district will provide they trim their spending, increase rates by about 5 per cent. Some may still be able to reduce rates.

But some Labour councils in London and the cities are likely to refuse to cut their spending to the required level and will face steep reductions in grant: ratepayers will have to pick up the bill.

Cargo craft sent to aid Salyut

Moscow (AP) - The Soviet Union launched a cargo satellite carrying "expedible materials" to the two cosmonauts on board the Salyut 7 space station, which some reports have said is drifting after its propellant leaked into space.

Tass said the Progress 18 satellite was launched at 12.59 pm (0950 GMT).

It said the craft had been launched "under the programme of ensuring the further functioning of the orbital scientific station Salyut 7".

Abbey man tipped to lead Mirror

Reed International is expected to announce today the name of the new chairman of its subsidiary Mirror Group Newspapers, a post which has achieved a new political sensitivity.

The man heavily-tipped last night to lead the group to the Stock exchange is Mr Clive Thornton, aged 53, chief general manager of the Abbey National Building Society.

The most important part of the new chairman's job will be to placate the Labour Party which fears that the Daily Mirror - the only national daily to support the party in the last election - could swing to the Right.

Reed intends to sell its interest in the company outright which has led to fears in the Labour movement that it could be taken over by a right-wing entrepreneur.

Mr Thornton has emerged as the favourite ahead of a string of names which includes a number of former Labour ministers.

His acceptability to the City will not be challenged, but he is not someone with any strong association with the Labour movement. Mr Thornton, a former lawyer, is known among his associates as a liberal, but not someone with any strong left-wing sympathies. Love's labours lost, page 10

Navy Harrier crashes near manor house

From a Staff Reporter

A Royal Navy Sea Harrier exploded in flames close to a manor house yesterday, seconds after the pilot ejected to safety.

The aircraft, from 899 squadron, on a training flight from the Royal Navy Air Station at Yeovilton, Somerset, in Dorset, slightly damaging a farm building. The pilot was unharmed.

Anna Ford settles with TV-am

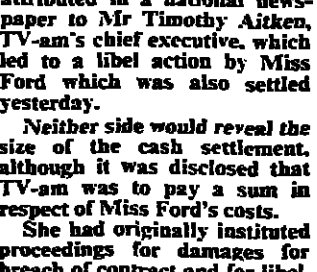
By David Hewson

Anna Ford settled a legal action against her former employers TV-am yesterday after the company agreed an out-of-court settlement and offered to re-employ her.

The agreed statement read out in court said: "They (TV-am) are pleased to have resolved their dispute with Miss Ford and the clearest indication of the regard they hold for her is that they are willing to re-employ her in some suitable capacity if she is so minded at any time."

But it is unlikely that Miss Ford will return to the breakfast station, which dismissed her in April.

Both parties agreed not to talk about the dispute as part of the settlement, but it is understood that TV-am's offer of re-employment will not be accepted. It is a way of dissociating itself from remarks



attributed in a national newspaper to Mr Timothy Aitken, TV-am's chief executive, which led to a libel action by Miss Ford which was also settled yesterday.

Advertisement for Bell's Scotch Whisky. Text: 'Follow the Leader', 'the quality scotch', 'ARTHUR BELL & SONS plc. ESTABLISHED 1825 AND STILL AN INDEPENDENT COMPANY'. Includes image of a whisky bottle.

Handwritten Arabic text: 'سكندرية للاخبار'

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Mr Eric Varley's decision to stand again for the Shadow Cabinet is not only a loss to the Labour Party in Parliament. It is also a warning of a more general danger that faces a party that has been out of office for four years and seems bound to have at least another four years in the wilderness: that the longer it is out of government the less it may look as if it would be at home in government.

That was certainly a handicap for Mr Harold Wilson in the early 1960s. Under his leadership Labour won the 1964 election on the theme of "13 wasted years" under the Conservatives. But one of the reasons Labour won only by the narrowest of margins was that during those 13 years it had lost, in one way or another, most of its senior figures who had served in the Cabinet.

So it was a very inexperienced team that Mr Wilson led back into power. That was a handicap in the campaign and a considerable weakness for the new Government. It is a problem that is now inevitably presented to Labour once again. Indeed, in one sense the difficulty is all the greater this time because Mr Neil Kinnock has never served in any government post.

Mr Varley is not leaving active politics at this stage: otherwise he would not have stood for reelection as party treasurer at Brighton. But his decision to withdraw from the Shadow Cabinet may be interpreted as a sign that he is becoming semi-detached. He is essentially a man of government who is neither at his happiest nor at his best in opposition.

But he is precisely the kind of moderate politician of experienced judgment who helps to make an opposition party look as though it could run the country. If people like him drift away, Labour will look less credible as a potential government, and the less credible Labour look as a potential government the more people like him can be expected to drift away.

Need to strike a balance

So Mr Varley's departure from the front bench makes it all the more important for Mr Kinnock to strike a judicious balance between freshness and experience in his senior Shadow Cabinet placings. His freedom of manoeuvre has to some extent been restricted by Mr Denis Healey's decision to stand again.

It is most improbable Mr Healey would have taken this step without some assurance that he will be reappointed as Shadow Foreign Secretary. Many people will welcome this as evidence that Labour will pursue a policy of international responsibility. But Mr Healey has not always picked the right moment to stand and fight. He is probably not the best person to persuade the party to rethink its foreign and defence policies, and as he will be aged 70 in four years' time, it is hard to believe that he will serve as Foreign Secretary in a future Labour Government.

But Mr Healey's continued presence in the Shadow Cabinet will make it all the more likely that Mr Peter Shore will be moved from the Shadow Chancellorship. Now that he is deputy leader, Mr Hattersley could hardly be moved from the post of Shadow Home Secretary unless he were to become Shadow Foreign Secretary or Chancellor. Yet it would not be much of an advertisement for the party if Mr Kinnock were to leave the big three positions in his Shadow Cabinet unchanged.

Exchange of jobs likely

So it seems probable either that there will be a straight exchange of jobs between Mr Hattersley and Mr Shore or that somebody like Mr Gerald Kaufman will be given one of these posts. Several of his colleagues mention his name as a possible Shadow Chancellor: his incisive mind and caustic tongue are much admired, and sometimes feared.

It will, however, be a great pity if Mr Shore is left with a minor post in the reshuffle. He suffered a humiliating defeat in the leadership contest, but he fought a more consistently forthright campaign than any of the other candidates. He won much public respect in the process, and he is the kind of politician with the national interest at heart whom Labour needs in senior positions if it is to be convincing to a wider public. The test for Mr Kinnock will be whether he constructs his team to appeal to that wider public, or simply to the party.

Channel tunnel snags remain despite private cash promise

By John Lawless and Michael Baily

The Channel tunnel could be built without government cash help, a study by five banks is to say.

The full report, commissioned by the Department of Transport in June last year, will be with the British and French governments and the European Commission early December, although it is understood that early parts have been submitted for comment.

Sources close to the project said yesterday, however, that the report's findings would be completely clear "the way completely for the building of the tunnel."

Although it apparently meets the main demand of the British government, that the project would be a 100 per cent private venture, the potential backers are understood to be seeking assurances on two highly sensitive issues.

The first is that they would not lose money if it were cancelled part-way through construction for non-commercial reasons. The second is that they should have some "assurance" against revenue shortfalls.

They are understood to have emphasized that, even before building gets underway, mobilization costs are going to be extremely high and that a commitment to spend up to £2,000m on the tunnel deserves a small gesture of confidence from Whitehall.

The Department of Transport confirmed yesterday that there could be a guarantee against cancellation for political reasons, but not against failure to complete on other grounds. Nor could there be any Government guarantee against revenue shortfalls.

That policy seems unlikely to be softened by a hard-line monetarist like Mr Nicholas Ridley, who took over as Secretary of State for Transport this week, although it is feared that unless the British Government makes a small commitment, the support of the French, backed by the EEC, would be sacrificed.

The most viable scheme is thought to be the twin-bore rail tunnel, as promoted by Tarmac and Wimpey through Channel Tunnel Developments. That would be similar to the scheme cancelled in 1974, in that it would provide both for through train traffic, and for road vehicles carried on shuttle trains.

Its smaller scale makes it easier to finance than the Euroroute scheme backed by Mr Ian McGregor which, with its combined bridge and tunnel solution, would take road vehicles as well as trains, but could cost twice as much.

Kinnock says Tories 'sacrificing industry'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday exploited Cabinet differences over the Government's economic strategy with an attack on the "zealots who are prepared to sacrifice industries, services and people in obedience to their pre-Churchillian obsessions."

The Labour leader was speaking in Glasgow as it became known that his attempt to draw the Prime Minister into a full Commons confrontation next week about the National Health Service had failed.

The Opposition, after being rebuffed government time for a debate on the issue, has chosen to hold one in its own time, next Thursday, when Mr Kinnock will make his first Commons speech as Leader.

It is usual for the Prime Minister to speak in any debate in which the Leader of the Opposition is participating, but it was disclosed yesterday that Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, would be putting the Government's case. That is seen as a deliberately dismissive gesture on Mrs Thatcher's part.

Mr Kinnock, speaking yesterday to a Newspaper Press Fund lunch, said that the continuing

Concession may clinch Nissan deal

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Nissan of Japan is believed to have redrawn its plans for a £500m British car manufacturing plant to defuse opposition from within the company and trade unions before its announcement that it is going ahead with the project.

Nissan may offer to reduce substantially its exports of built-up cars to Britain, running at about 100,000 a year, in return for the British Government's agreement to a much higher imported content in the British-made cars.

The plan announced almost three years ago for the British factory to produce up to 200,000 Nissans a year with at least 60 per cent European content. The Government emphasised then that it would not countenance a project which was only an assembly plant for Japanese components.

By offering to reduce its car exports, Nissan may persuade the Government to accept a local content of much less than 60 per cent in the initial stages of the development.

That would indicate a much slower build-up of the British plant, which would please those on the Nissan board who have advocated caution in the face of stagnating world car demand.

Indications that a compromise has been reached came in an announcement by the company's chairman, Mr Katsujii Kawazata, that he had dropped his long-standing objection.

Mr Kawazata has been the chief stumbling block in the way of achieving consensus on the Nissan deal. Report from Japan now state that he is in favour of the plan and the company has reiterated that a decision would be made by the end of the year. An announcement is expected within weeks.

Whip ballot

Mr Michael Cocks finished well ahead yesterday in the first ballot for the post of Labour chief whip, the position he has held since 1976.

But although he remains favourite to win the post, it was clear last night that the final result will be tighter than expected and seems likely to go at least to a third ballot.

Mr Cocks, whose reelection is not backed by Mr Kinnock, received 83 of the 193 votes cast, with the remainder divided between the four challengers for the post.

Shutler shares chess lead

From Our Chess Correspondent St Peter Port

At the end of round 5 in the Lloyds Bank Guernsey Festival of Chess at St Martin's Hotel, St Peter Port, the lead was still shared by B. Carlier (Netherlands) and S. J. Shutler (England) who each have four points and one unfinished game. They are closely followed by Dr Aitken, N. Carr, H. J. Clackett, and G. Speed, all of whom have four points.

Both C. Flackett and Dr Aitken won in vigorous and clear-cut style on this round and with two rounds still to go the destination of the leading prizes is far from clear.

Some results of this round: G Speed 1/2 v M Carr 1/2; H J Clackett 1/2 v B Carlier 1/2; Dr Aitken 1/2 v S J Shutler 1/2; N Carr 1/2 v G Speed 1/2; M Carr 1/2 v G Speed 1/2; H J Clackett 1/2 v B Carlier 1/2; Dr Aitken 1/2 v S J Shutler 1/2; N Carr 1/2 v G Speed 1/2.

Tintin and Asterix in 'racist' trouble

By Stephen Goodwin

Tintin and his dog Snowy (right) and Asterix the Gaul, the cartoon heroes, are facing charges in the London Borough of Brent of racism and sexism.

If the case is found proved books featuring them are likely to be removed from the shelves of the borough's libraries.

Complaints have been made by librarians about the "highly offensive" image of black people portrayed.

Brent Council has a policy of not displaying books that it considers racist or sexist and so Mr John Clarke, the borough librarian, is examining Tintin and Asterix.

Remi, who died in March, is considered to be the worst offender. The series first appeared in the 1930s and is undoubtedly a product of the colonial era.

At the borough's Town Hall library, Mr Christopher Dunn, a children's book specialist, pointed out the dilemma of banning two of the most popular characters they stock.

"I would not be sorry to see them go", he said, "but the children probably would."

"All comic books deal in stereotypes and the problem is that that children may absorb this and think that all black people run around in grass skirts."



Retrial for man on rape charge

The trial of a man who claims that he discovered pornographic photographs featuring a leading British politician, a detective sergeant, and a woman who has two children, was halted at the central Criminal Court yesterday.

Judge Miskin, QC, the Recorder, dismissed the jury saying that because the case was taking longer than expected and two jurors had to be excused because of prior holiday arrangements, it would be unfair to continue the trial with only 10 jury members.

The retrial will start on November 7 before Mr Justice Croom-Johnson in the High Court.

The man, aged 37, a Southend artist, had denied throughout the 14-day hearing that he raped or assaulted the women in September last year. He maintained that he had been "fitted up and framed" by the police since finding the alleged photographs in a briefcase belonging to the MP.

Autumn cheer as prices for fine wines drop

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Good news for wine bibbers came from Christie's yesterday as prices for fine wines dropped back from their summer levels. Among the 1975 clarets, Lafite was down to £560 a case from £600 in July; Cheval Blanc was selling between £390 and £460 compared to £540 in the summer.

Leoville-Las-Cases between £200 and £210 compared to £260 and Giscours at £110 compared to £140.

"It always happens in the autumn", Mr Michael Broadbent of Christie's wine department said. "People think it is a good time to sell and too much wine comes on the market for prices to hold."

Christie's have a wine sale scheduled almost every week between now and Christmas. In particular, the good 1975 and 1976 vintages are being sold in large quantities to pay for stocks of 1982. Those wines, not quite ready for drinking, are particularly good buys, according to Mr Broadbent.

Sale Room

diamond market proved strong although there were still weak areas and 29 per cent was left unsold with a total of £5.6m.

An emerald-cut diamond weighing 24.93 carats and mounted in platinum as a ring sold for \$880,000 (estimate \$800,000 to \$900,000) or \$582,781 to an unnamed dealer.

A 28.18 carat Kashmir sapphire surrounded by 32 little diamonds as a ring made \$676,000 (estimate \$600,000 to \$650,000) or \$447,682.

Christie's sale of silver, furniture and works of art in Rome on Wednesday made £110,587 with 33 per cent left unsold. A pair of late nineteenth century French silver candleabra with seven branches held up by a girl who is held in the air by a boy sold for 17m lire (estimate 16m to 19m) or £7,083.

Correction: A thirteenth century Persian bronze bowl inlaid with silver was bought in at £20,000 in Sotheby's Islamic sale on Wednesday not at £200,000 as reported yesterday.



Entente cordiale: President Mitterand with Mrs Thatcher on his arrival at RAF Northolt, west London, yesterday for a 24-hour visit to discuss nuclear defence policy and reforms of the EEC. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

New threat to phone services

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Telephone services face disruption after a threat by switchboard operators to take industrial action in support of the Post Office Engineers Union's campaign against the sale of British Telecom.

The Union of Communication Workers has about 40,000 members in British Telecom, mainly women telephone operators in exchanges, and it is understood that some are to join the dispute, possibly today. The two unions have held secret talks over the past week preparing further action in the dispute.

Neither union was prepared to comment last night on the prospect of the operators' involvement, but it will be seen by British Telecom as a serious worsening of the dispute.

The POEU will be in the High Court today to hear the result of the three-day hearing of an application for an injunction against the union to halt its backing of Mercury, British Telecom's private rival.

Union officials have decided that if the injunction is granted they will lodge an appeal. Mercury has indicated that it will do the same if the injunction is refused. The union will hold discussions with the TUC next week over the legal implications of the union movement if an injunction is granted.

The POEU also decided yesterday to support 19 engineers who are due on Monday to become the first to be dismissed by British Telecom in this dispute. The men, who work in and around London, have been issued with

dismissal warnings for refusing to cross picket lines when they were taken by coach into central London to fill vacancies left by POEU members either on strike or suspended.

The men had, on union instructions, signed a good behaviour pledge and because they refused to abide by the terms of the agreement, British Telecom has said it will dismiss them at 5 pm on Monday. Union officials had told the men that their advice indicated the agreement they signed was legally irrelevant.

POEU leaders agreed last night that they would pay the normal wages of the men if they were dismissed, but there was no immediate suggestion that the union would take retaliatory action.

Unions combine to fight pit closures

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Leaders of all three unions drew up a joint strategy yesterday for opposing pit closures and manpower reductions to put to the National Coal Board and Government.

At a meeting in London, mine workers' pit deputies and colliery managers resolved to provide "all possible mutual support and assistance in order to prevent further rundown" and agreed a programme of cash measures almost certain to be rejected by the Government.

That decision brought together for the first time the National Union of Mineworkers, the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shot-fires, and the British Association of Colliery Management.

They will ask Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy for talks on import controls, subsidies and capital reconstruction of the coal board.

A special NUM delegate conference today will consider a national overtime ban over colliery closures and the Board's "final" 5.2 per cent pay offer.

The three organizations signed a statement yesterday reaffirming their faith in a long-term expansion of coal output, and attacking the board's intention to close 70 pits with the loss of 70,000 jobs.

They called on Mr Ian McGregor, chairman of the board, to back up their demands for import controls.

Researchers link the Pill with Cancer

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

The strongest evidence so far linking oral contraceptives with cancer is published by two separate research groups in the *Lancet* today.

One study relates prolonged use of certain "high dose" pills before the age of 25 to a significant increased risk of breast cancer. The other suggests the pill might stimulate the development of cervical cancer.

Last night the Family Planning Association issued a statement warning against over-reaction: "Since breast cancer in particular is such an emotive subject likely to cause alarm in any woman, it is important that women do not panic unnecessarily and stop taking the pill without medical advice, thereby risking an unplanned pregnancy."

The report on breast cancer was based on a study at the University of Southern California of 314 patients in Los Angeles whose tumours were diagnosed before the age of 37.

They were compared with 314 healthy women of the same ages and social background.

Most oral contraceptives are "combination" pills, containing two types of hormone: oestrogen and progesterone. The Los Angeles study links high levels of progesterone with breast cancer. Women who took high-progesterone pills for at least six years before reaching 25 were four times more likely to develop breast cancer than women who used other contraceptives.

The *Lancet* paper on cervical cancer is by Professor Martin Vessey and three colleagues at Oxford University's department of community medicine. They found 13 cases of invasive cancer amongst 6,834 British pill-users and none in a group of 3,154 women fitted with intra-

uterine devices. Pre-cancerous cell growth in the cervix was also more common among pill users, and its incidence increased with the number of years on the pill.

"We regard our findings, especially those for invasive cancer of the cervix, as disturbing (although not, of course, conclusive)", the Oxford group said.

The Department of Health's Committee on gynaecological cytology, which saw an advance copy of the Oxford Report, recommends additional cervical smears for users and former users of oral contraceptives.

The Los Angeles study established a stronger statistical connection between breast cancer and taking high-progesterone pills under 25. But the drug industry has reduced hormone levels in pills steadily over recent years.

Dr Malcolm Pike, who moved recently from California to Oxford as Director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Epidemiology Unit, said yesterday that only a small proportion of the oral contraceptives now prescribed in Britain contain enough progesterone to cause concern. Brands with high "progesterone potency" include Ovulen 50, Ovran, Ovranet, Anovlar 21, Gynovlar 21 and Conova 30.

Several studies have shown clearly that oral contraceptives can protect against some other cancers, particularly of the ovaries and the lining of the womb.

Overseas selling prices: America \$25.00; Australia \$25.00; Canada \$25.00; France 200.00; Germany 200.00; Italy 200.00; Japan 200.00; Spain 200.00; Switzerland 200.00; Sweden 200.00; Taiwan 200.00; USA 200.00; West Germany 200.00.

Closed shop challenge by driver

From Our Correspondent, Cambridge

An industrial tribunal in Cambridge was told yesterday that its decision in a closed shop test case could affect the future of trade union bargaining.

Richard Shackcloth, aged 27, of Purwell Lane, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, was dismissed as a delivery driver by a subsidiary of the Littlewoods Mail Order firm, Home Delivery Service, of Hitchin, when he decided he wanted to leave the Union and pay his 45p-a-week dues to the NSPPC.

Mr Shackcloth claims that when he joined the closed shop firm his contract obliged him to join a union or, if he held strong objections, to pay the equivalent of the union subscription to charity.

He stayed in the union for three-and-a-half years but became disillusioned and decided on grounds of "conscience and deeply held personal conviction" to resign.

Mr Shackcloth was dismissed from the £60 a week job when he insisted on his right to resign from the union.

Cut in Civil Service on target

By David Cross

Mrs Margaret Thatcher seems likely to be able to keep her promise to reduce the size of the Civil Service to 630,000 by next April.

According to the latest statistics, published by the Treasury yesterday, the number of civil servants had fallen by 89,000, or 12.2 per cent, to a total of 642,800 at the last count on July 1. That was the lowest figure for 22 years.

Other figures showed that the largest reductions since January 1, 1979, had taken place in the Ministry of Defence, the Department of the Environment, the Inland Revenue, and the Customs and Excise.

The Treasury conceded, however, that a few departments had increased in size since Mrs Thatcher took office.

Table with 3 columns: Staff in 7 largest departments, Change, Percentage change. Includes MoD, DHSS, Inland Revenue, Employment Group, DOE (incl PSA), Home Office, Customs, Other Dept.

Are you above Average?

Advertisement for The Spectator magazine, featuring a competition to win a Daimler limousine. Text includes: 'See if you can outwit Dame Edna and answer her question in the Great Spectator Car Chase Competition. You'll win a mint condition 1934 Daimler limousine - the first price. The Spectator 75p weekly.'

Synod to debate proposal to allow remarriage in church after full inquiry

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Details of the recommended procedure to be used before divorced persons are allowed a second marriage in the Church of England are published today.

The proposals will be put before the General Synod for approval next month. However, there are indications that opponents of remarriage in church will attempt to defeat them in a last-ditch effort to maintain the church's traditional opposition to divorce.

The proposals, which if agreed will appear in the form of a handbook, make it clear that the obtaining of a dispensation from the bishop for a second church wedding will be a formidable business. An extensive and thorough investigation by the clergyman concerned would be conducted to establish:

- Whether one of the couple was responsible for the ending of a previous marriage;
- If so whether there is "true repentance";
- Whether sufficient efforts were made to save the previous marriage;
- Whether former wives and children of former marriages are being properly supported, compliance with court orders, not necessarily being sufficient;
- Whether the present applicants now understand and accept the obligations of church marriage, including its permanence;
- Whether the first marriage

was really a Christian marriage at all, or whether it could be deemed null and void.

The answers to those questions will go to a panel of advisers, who will recommend to the bishop whether to grant permission and declare the previous vows no longer in force. In cases of refusal there will be no appeal, and the couple will not be entitled to know the reasons.

The proposals make a substantial concession to those who opposed the decision in principle last July, by including an investigation into the possibility of de facto nullity. At the Synod's debate, the Anglo-Catholic group made clear that nullity, in the sense understood in the Roman Catholic churches marriage discipline, was the only ground on which they could permit remarriage.

It is understood that in drafting this section, the Anglican working party sought and received advice from priests of the Roman Catholic marriage tribunal in Westminster.

The section, the draft document states, should be dealt with by all clergy conducting such inquiries, and not only those who believe remarriage should be confined to cases where nullity can be alleged.

The clergyman should inquire, the document suggests, whether there was a serious defect of intention in one or both partners to the former marriage, and whether consent to that marriage was freely and fully given.

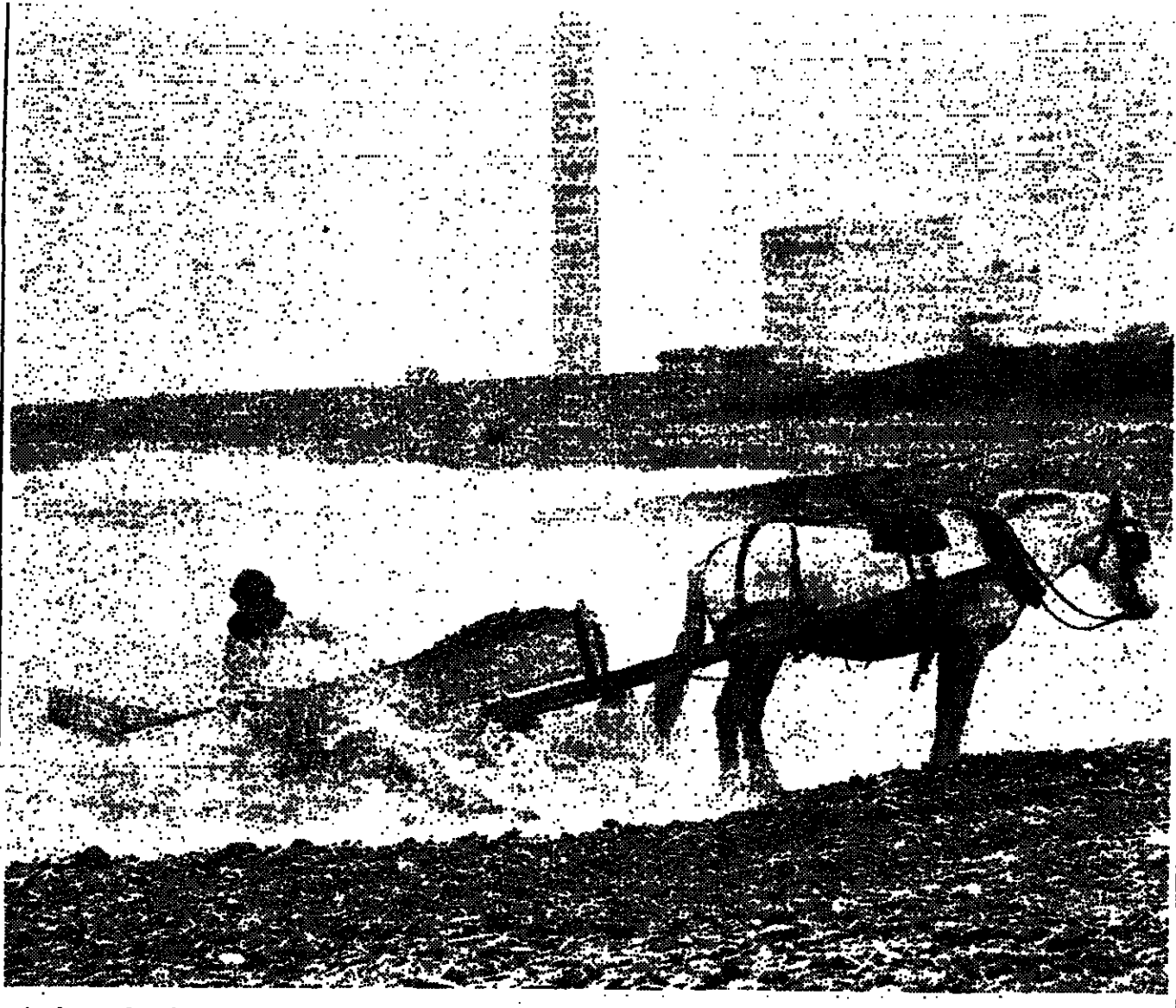
The previous vows should not be called in question without clear evidence, but by actions and behaviour, as well as by statements and agreements, one or both parties to a marriage may have revealed absence of intention to achieve a marriage according to the church's teaching.

The diocesan synod of Salisbury has already declared its continuing opposition to remarriage, and elsewhere in England meetings have taken place since July to support that view.

It was in July that the General Synod agreed, after more than a decade of debate and indecision, to permit remarriage in certain circumstances. It asked for detailed proposals for implementing this. It is those that are now published.

The synod will also again debate the proposal, last defeated about three years ago, that women priests ordained in the Anglican Communion overseas should be accepted as visiting priests on the same terms as men.

The synod is also likely to debate the stationing of cruise missiles in Britain, although such a debate would require the synod to agree to alter its own agenda.



Ancient and modern: A sea coal collector and his horse gathering fuel near Lynemouth, Northumberland. The coal will be used by the power station behind, which drives the modern Alcan smelter nearby. (Photograph: Stuart Bonney)

Pop stars on apartheid blacklist

By Richard Dowden

Elton John, Shirley Bassey, Leo Sayer and the pop group, Hot Gossip are named on a list of musicians and actors who have visited South Africa recently which has been drawn up by the United Nations Centre Against Apartheid.

The list, which is to be published in New York on Monday, is also understood to include the Beach Boys and Frank Sinatra.

One of the people involved in drawing up the list said that he hoped that countries would apply the same sanctions to those people as had been applied to sportsmen who went to South Africa and refuse their visas.

The list which is also understood to contain the names of Spike Milligan, Marti Caine, Christian Blackshaw and Peter Sarsted, contains the names of all those musicians and artists who have visited South Africa since January 1981. Most of them have appeared at Sun City the vast leisure and entertainment centre in the Bophuthatswana homeland.

But one of those named, the composer and pianist Donald Swann, went as a guest of the Christian Fellowship Trust which is connected to the Christian Institute, an anti-apartheid body founded by Dr Beyers Naude which was banned by the South African Government in 1977.

Family life and the jet setters

By a Staff Reporter

The image of the jet-setting American business man or woman who has not time for the family is belied by an international survey which shows that American executives are more involved with their families.

According to the survey of 165 executives' spouses from 13 countries, 60 per cent of Americans who replied felt their partners did their fair share of domestic chores and 86 per cent did their fair share of "parenting". British executives scored lowest in this area with only 58 per cent doing their share of "parenting", according to their marriage partners.

The Americans also seemed most involved in their partners' careers, with 67 per cent saying they were "closely" involved.

International Management magazine says "the survey presents a picture of the executive's spouse as somewhat overburdened with the domestic details of life, interested in the executive's career, a useful and responsive sounding board for problems, grateful for any help with household chores, and generally content, except for the ever-present threat of relocation".

Only 12 per cent of those who replied felt that their partner's job was causing problems in the marriage, but 45 per cent blamed it for marital stress, and 34 per cent said it caused other stress. Nearly half the British spouses said the job caused difficulties with raising children.

Nearly three-quarters of the spouses and 82 per cent of the British respondents did not feel they had sacrificed their careers for their partners'. But 80 per cent of the British people who felt they had made such a sacrifice did so with regrets or very reluctantly.

The complete survey is available from Jennifer Vint International Management, McGraw-Hill House, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 2QL (t.15).

Ford tells dealers to cut service charges

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Ford is urging its dealers to cut their prices for service and repair work in what is a substantial business now being lost to "quick-fit" specialists, backstreet garages, and do-it-yourself motorists.

A two-year market survey has shown that only one in three owners take their cars to a franchised dealer. The remainder said that price and convenience were the deciding factors in using heavily advertised "quick-fit" specialists for exhausts, brake, and clutch replacements, and high street shops for do-it-yourself parts purchases.

The increasing drain on dealers' finances has come at a time when Ford, as with all the large car companies, has doubled the interval between service

Law Society conference Conflict over conveyancing

From Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent, Paris

Moves by building societies to obtain powers to offer a cheaper conveyancing service pose a serious threat to the continuing viability of private practice.

Mr Christopher Hewitson, president of the Law Society, told its national conference in Paris yesterday.

The societies wanted the power to do conveyancing, estate agency and insurance. There was "a considerable threat from cartels of building societies forcing the price down and doing what they like then they get rid of us".

But Mr David Tench, legal officer of the Consumers Association, said the association has promoted a private member's Bill, now before Parliament, to open the way to licensing "conveyancers" in competition with solicitors. The Bill is being presented by Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, and will have its second reading on December 16.

There were many in the profession who would fight for monopoly to the last ditch. "Why don't we concede the principle and fight for the work?" Solicitors must show that they can do conveyancing best.

Answering the point that, without conveyancing, unscrupulous legal services could not be maintained, Mr Tench said that conveyancing was too expensive and not efficient, while justice was obtained "on the cheap". "There is no case for the house buyer to subsidize litigants."

Each area of the service must be self sufficient and each member of the public should pay for the service received, Mr Tench said.

Coronation Street actor dies

By David Hewson

Mr Peter Dudley, aged 47, who played Bert Tilsley in Coronation Street, died yesterday in the hospital where his television wife, Lynne Perrie, was taken with a heart condition on Wednesday.

Mr Dudley was written out of the programme in July because of chronic heart trouble.

Mr Mervyn Watson, the programme's producer, said: "We are absolutely stunned. He will be sadly missed because he made a very wonderful contribution to the programme."

Each area of the service must be self sufficient and each member of the public should pay for the service received, Mr Tench said.

Throwing light on bulb prices

The price of a standard 100-watt light varies between 29p and 69p, a National Federation of Consumer Groups survey says.

The best buy was the British Home Stores' double-life bulb, which cost 18.3p per 1,000 hours of life.

The federation gives a warning that bulbs marked "for longer life" or "extended life" are not double-life bulbs, which should be marked "2,000 hours".

Police Constable Robert Joll, aged 32, of Sketty, Swansea, was dismissed from South Wales Police yesterday after being found guilty of punching a handcuffed prisoner in the face. He was fined £400 by Merthyr magistrates and ordered to pay £131 costs.

BL pays £8,000 to 'The Mole'

Mr Alan Thornett, a former British Leyland shop steward, known as 'The Mole' has been paid £8,000 in an out-of-court settlement for losing his job, an industrial tribunal at Reading was told yesterday.

Mr Thornett, of Bartlemas Road, Oxford, was dismissed as a lorry driver last November after the company discovered that his heavy goods vehicle licence had lapsed for more than four years. The company also claimed that he falsified sick notes.

PC dismissed

Police Constable Robert Joll, aged 32, of Sketty, Swansea, was dismissed from South Wales Police yesterday after being found guilty of punching a handcuffed prisoner in the face. He was fined £400 by Merthyr magistrates and ordered to pay £131 costs.

\$50,000 raid

Four armed men, one disguised as a woman, escaped yesterday with nearly £50,000 in payroll robbery yesterday. They threatened security guards in Birmingham who were delivering the money to a firm in Perry Barr.

British pupils 'lag in maths'

By Nick Wood

British children of below-average ability trail a full two years behind their West German counterparts in mathematical attainment, according to a detailed new comparison of education standards in the two countries.

The study shows that examination results achieved by children in the bottom half of the ability range are extremely poor compared with those obtained in the West German *hauptschule*, equivalent to the old British secondary modern school.

Two of three school-leavers in England and Wales failed to get at least a Certificate of Secondary Education grade five in a core of three subjects by English, mathematics and science - but nine out of ten West Germans were awarded their leaving certificates, for which they had to pass nine out of ten subjects.

The findings, come from a study by Professor Sig Prais and Dr Karin Wagner, and are contained in a pre-publication discussion document issued by the National Institute of Social and Economic Research.

Fiat says Which? car survey was biased

A recent survey by Which? that is highly critical of Fiat cars, was attacked yesterday by the Italian company's chief executive in Britain as "blatantly biased" and "unrealistic".

Signor Pietro Quaglia, the managing director of Fiat Auto UK, told *The Times*: "I have never seen a report which, while pretending total objectivity, condemns in such a biased and generalized way making damaging statements on the basis of unrealistically small sample sizes and the subjective assessment of models now out of production."

He said that photographs of five of the six Fiat models used to illustrate the report were of the latest models although findings and comments were based on earlier models and in one case referred to "a different car altogether".

Mr Quaglia's complaints were contained in a letter to *The Times*. Last night the Consumers' Association, which owns *Which?* magazine, declined to comment unless it received a copy of the letter in full. Mr Quaglia refused to release it "because we are considering what further action we may take".

Complaints system attacked

The way the Law Society handles complaints against its members is criticized in the leading legal magazine *New Law Journal* today.

Mr Walter Merricks, a solicitor, has written in the *Journal* about a barrister's fight to recover £800 in overdue fees from a solicitor and the Law Society's decision to take no action.

The *Journal* had earlier called for an inquiry into the society's complaints procedure over the case of Mr Glanville Davies, who overcharged a client by more than £100,000.

The society is alleged to have failed to investigate a series of complaints against Mr Davies, and the High Court is to rule on who should pay the costs of the client's action to get Mr Davies struck off.

In the case reported by Mr Merricks today, the fees had been due to the barrister for four or five years when he threatened to report the solicitor to the Law Society.

The solicitor sent the money, but threatened to withdraw all work from all members of the barrister's chambers.

The barrister referred the issue to the Law Society, Mr Merricks says, but he was told it was not appropriate to take any disciplinary action.

Alleged rape victim held for contempt

James King, aged 27, of King's Cross Road, Dundee, was cleared by the High Court in Dundee yesterday of assault with intent to rape. His alleged victim, aged 27, was detained in custody after being convicted of contempt of court.

On Wednesday the alleged victim refused to say anything because she and King were friends.

The presiding judge, Lord Wylie, deferred sentence until November 3 at the High Court in Edinburgh, describing it as "a most unusual case". The woman was detained in custody for social reports.

Greeks open rival school

By David Cross

The socialist government of Greece is to open a nursery and primary school in Holland Park next week to rival a private Greek school in London, which has the former King Constantine as one of its leading trustees.

The new school, which will occupy premises in a building next to the Greek Embassy, is expected to enroll between 40 and 50 children between the ages of four and twelve.

The opening of the state-financed school comes for a dispute between the Greek Government and the Hellenic College in Pont Street, Knightsbridge, over the former king's support for the school.

The government in Athens objected to some of the teachers at the college continuing to use royal titles to address the former monarch's three teenage children, Paul, Nicholas and Alexia, in their classrooms.



Tractors to suit small farmers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Tractor manufacturers, who for several years have been introducing larger and larger models as grain averages have expanded, are turning to the needs of small farmers.

The extremes of scale are represented by the Deere 8850, pictured above, manufactured in the United States, which generates 352 hp and is claimed to be the largest and most powerful in the world, and the same company's new 1140 LP (right). This is only 56 hp and is intended primarily for livestock and dairy farmers.

Mr Douglas Walker, managing director of John Deere Ltd, says that small cost-conscious customers make up 80 per cent of the market and may have been deterred previously by the company's up-market image.

The 1040 LP, made in Germany, costs £8,736, compared with £78,300 for the 8850.

LSE rejects idea to buy racehorse

By Richard Evans

Faced with spending a £10,000 windfall on a racehorse or a nursery, the students of the London School of Economics settled yesterday for a traditional British compromise, and rejected both ideas.

The refund from the Department of Health and Social Security will remain invested in Charter Trust and earn the students' union £1,100 a year.

At the best-attended student meeting for years, where paper darts rained down on speakers, voting tended to follow party-political lines.

The left vociferously supported giving the cash towards nursery facilities, while the right favoured indulgence on the turf. In the end neither achieved the necessary two-thirds majority and a decidedly boisterous "silent majority" won the day.

During an intense propaganda battle the LSE Labour group issued a pamphlet which said that the racehorse plan was, at best, a pathetic public-school wheeze and, at worst, a piece of callous manoeuvring by Tories.

The right, spearheaded by elements within *Beaver*, the students' newspaper, published a leaflet, *Vote for the Horse*, which reminded students of their expensive mistake last year when they rejected a plan to disaffiliate from the National Union of Students and to spend the money on a horse.

The horse named Caballo, won two races, trebled in value, and would have made a £10,000 profit.

Mr Martin Graham, who was behind both schemes suggested rectifying the mistake by buying Enbyur Dan, a Newmarket-trained novice hurdler with "bags of potential". His idea failed to win a simple majority.

Embryo 'doing well' after being deep frozen

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A description published yesterday of attempts by one of the world's leading test tube-baby teams to produce the first birth from embryos that have been deep-frozen before being implanted is certain to cause a further dispute in this emotionally charged area.

In addition to explaining how an embryo is preserved at -200C, thawed, then transferred to an infertile woman, the doctors also discuss the ethics of deep-freeze storage.

They say that if the survival periods of frozen embryos approach the number of years observed in other animals, difficulties may arise if parents disagree on their eventual destination. Patients may be asked to include in their will their preferences concerning the destination of embryos in case of death.

The options may include the donation of embryos to couples where both husband and wife are sterile.

A paper by Dr Alan Trounson and Dr Linda Mohr, of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, in the latest issue of *Nature* describes the first attempts involving 15 patients.

One pregnancy was established and lasted 23 weeks before ending in still birth in June because of an infection of the womb.

The same method has been repeated, and a second 12-week embryo, is said to be progressing normally.

In the preparation for fertilization outside the womb, patients are treated with hormones before eggs are removed from the ovary.

The preparatory treatment increases ovulation, and five or six embryos may be produced.

Mortality rate down

Social improvements and medical advances have led to a big fall in still births and infant deaths, the Greater Glasgow Health Board said yesterday.

In under 10 years deaths of children in the first week of life, and born to women living in the area covered by the board have fallen from 23 in every 1,000 to 10.4 a 1,000.

Liberal Application

Apply yourself to Jo Grimond's question in the Great Spectator Car Chase Competition and you could win the mint condition 1934 Daimler limousine that's first prize.

The Spectator
75p weekly

Judge in air disaster inquiry loses fight to clear his name

By David Cross and William Reeves

A former New Zealand High Court judge, whose criticism of those involved in his country's worst aircraft disaster resulted in his resignation, yesterday lost his final attempt to clear his name.

In a 30-second hearing of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, New Zealand's highest court of appeal, Lord Diplock announced that he and four other Law Lords would "humbly advise Her Majesty that the appeal ought to be dismissed".

Mr Peter Mahon, who led a Royal Commission of inquiry into the 1979 crash of an Air New Zealand DC-10 into Mount Erebus in the Antarctic, had asked the Privy Council to restore his costs order against the airline, which had been set aside by the New Zealand Court of Appeal.

Lord Diplock said that the judge had wrongly accused Air New Zealand of orchestrating "a litany of lies" in its evidence about the crash in broad daylight in which 257 people died.

Although the airline's evidence showed "appalling blunders and deficiencies", there were no grounds for the judge's

costs order based on his finding of "a predetermined plan of deception" by airline staff.

He added that the Privy Council's costs decision was intended to reflect "their Lordships' view that the time for bitter feelings is over", although nothing could console the victims' relatives.

Nevertheless, yesterday's 38-page ruling by the Privy Council is unlikely to be the last word on a case which has aroused more controversy than the original air crash.

Mr Mahon's conclusions were based principally on the allegation that new direction coordinates had been fed into the aircraft's flight computer without the pilot's knowledge. His order that the airline should pay NZ dollars 150,000 (about £66,000) towards the cost of the inquiry prompted the resignation of Mr Morris Davis, the company's chief executive, who said that he hoped that Mr Mahon's "irresponsible rhetoric" would haunt him for the rest of his life.

Mr Muldoon, who supported the airline, maintained that some of the findings reached by the judge were not supported by the evidence. "As far as his 'litany of lies' is concerned", Mr Muldoon said, "I can see nothing in the report to support that comment."

In his report into the disaster which led to his resignation, he said: "The palpably false sections of evidence which I heard could not have been the result of mistake or faulty recollection. They originate, I am

compelled to say, in a predetermined plan of deception.

They were very clearly part of an attempt to conceal a series of disastrous administrative blunders and so... I am forced, reluctantly to say that I had to listen to an orchestrated litany of lies."

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Homecoming: Relatives and children welcoming some of the 66 political prisoners released yesterday in Argentina. They were said to be the last of more than 5,000 imprisoned in the mid 1970s.

Big Soviet offensive launched in Afghanistan

From Our Own Correspondent Delhi

A major Russian offensive is under way in Afghanistan, according to the Western diplomats here. Soviet troops as well as soldiers of the Moscow-backed regime launched a number of big ground operations in seven provinces in recent weeks.

The provinces include Herat and Kandahar in the west and south, Kabul and the provinces to the north of it, Parwan and Laghman as well as Baghlan and Samangan north of the Hindu Kush.

The heaviest reported activity has been in the southern Shomali Valley only few miles outside Kabul, where the small town of Istalef has taken a battering from Russian tank cannon and artillery, as well as from MIGs and helicopter gunships.

The town is famed for its lapis lazuli pottery, but recently has been the scene of fighting between two factions of the mujahideen guerrillas. Because of the feud the Afghan secret police, the Khad, have been able to prepare lists of guerrilla houses in the town and Soviet troops have been calling on houses on the list.

According to a refugee from the town who is quoted by a Western embassy, when the soldiers arrive they pour petrol into each room of the house and then set a torch to it.

Several sources say that four in every 10 houses in the town have been destroyed, and one told Western diplomats that you can smell rotting bodies buried in the rubble from far away.

Other sweeps are being carried out west and south of Herat city, where regime troops have suffered badly recently. The 17th division of the Afghan Army has been deployed on the operation, with apparently only a few troops left behind in the city to guard government buildings.

After recent attacks on convoys south of the city, the partial destruction of a dam to the west, and attacks both inside the town and on the road to the airport, the Government has been trying to relieve the pressure by building a series of fortified posts along the road leading to Islam Qala on the border with Iran.

Opposition blamed - then asked to help Mrs Gandhi's olive branch

From Michael Hasmya, Delhi

Garlanded with cardamom seeds and draped in a brilliant yellow sari, Mrs Indira Gandhi gave new impetus yesterday to the growing campaign to make her appear the only Indian politician capable of leading the country through the next five years.

With her status as an international statesman established by her chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement, reinforced by her descent on the United Nations General Assembly for a mini summit, and shortly to be consecrated by the commonwealth heads of government meeting in Delhi, she is now turning to the domestic political scene.

At the weekend she gave a press conference which lasted for more than two hours during which she dwelt almost exclusively on internal affairs, attacking by opposition, and virtually blaming them for the unruly state of parts of the country.

Yesterday however, she held out the olive branch of peace to them urging them to forget their political differences and to cooperate with the Government

But when her loyal audience followed cries of "abame" with a call to bring down his ministry she quickly stayed them saying: "This is not the way to dismiss a government."

She blamed the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, for the continuing stalemate in Punjab State. "It no longer appears to be a confrontation with the government but a conflict within themselves," she said, explaining that the extremists were preventing the moderates from agreeing to any viable solution.

The meeting of the All-India Congress Committee got off to a ragged and bad-tempered start when several senior dignitaries of the party had a hard time getting into the hall because of stringent security precautions. Mr Y. B. Chavan, a venerable party figure, was kept out and nearly trampled underfoot by a stampede. The Chief Minister of Gujarat and the party chief of Rajasthan were both jostled badly and were heard complaining crossly: "Is this the way to welcome guests?"

12 more die in Sind village clash

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

Twelve people were reported killed in an armed encounter between police and villagers at Lakhrot Jatoi, a village on the national highway in Newarshah district of Sind which has been at the centre of many anti martial law clashes resulting in scores of deaths since August 14.

The official news agency described the clash as an operation "to eliminate concentrations of Dacoits and lawless elements" and said that only one "armed civilian" died.

The English-speaking newspaper *Mirator* however, gave the figure as 12, and said several others were injured. It said three frontier policemen who were seriously hurt were taken to hospital.

The official report said police used tear gas and fired after the Dacoits refused to surrender and fired on the police, wounding four of their men. About 100 arrests were made and several weapons seized.

Iranian forces launch midnight offensive

Tehran (AFP) - Iranian troops continued to advance deep into Iraqi territory yesterday, killing "hundreds" of troops in an offensive named Dawn Four, according to a joint communique by the Iranian armed forces and Revolutionary Guards.

The attack, launched at midnight in the Kurdistan border area, "completely cleaned" Iraqi territory on the Shahr River between Banah and Marivan, two Iranian towns which have been repeatedly shelled.

Tehran radio said five Iraqi bases had been destroyed and the Louille and Kangarak highlands taken. According to an earlier report, one goal of the offensive is to sever the link between the Iraqis and their Iranian Kurd supporters.

BAGHDAD: Iraq said yesterday that its First Army Corps had started to repulse a new Iranian offensive in northern Iraq.

Brazilian wages decree imposed

By Our Foreign Staff

President Joao Figueiredo of Brazil has issued a new wages decree after Congress threw out a previous one to limit pay rises.

Just before the Congress voted he invoked emergency powers in the capital to curb protest.

The vote went 260-3 against the Bill, which would have limited all rises to 80 per cent of the official cost-of-living index.

Scores of people in a country where inflation is running at anything between 120 and 200 per cent, had been camping out in protest for days.

The Bill was a crucial part of a programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund to help to rescue Brazil from its \$60bn foreign debt on which it owes about £1.5bn alone in overdue interest payments.

The President, faced with Congress's refusal to ratify the Bill, immediately issued his new decree which goes some way to meet opposition demands from rebels within the government party (the PDS Social Democrats Party) and the opposition PMDB Brazilian Democrats Party and the other small parties.

The new decree evidently will allow low wage earners earning less than about £70 a month

Money target

The key parts of the IMF-agreed programme are:

- Bringing down inflation to a monthly rate of 2.5 per cent by the last quarter of 1984
- Cuts in government spending to reduce the public sector deficit as a proportion of output from 6 per cent in real terms in 1982 to 2.7 per cent this year and a small surplus next year
- Further measures to improve the balance of payments through import cuts and higher exports. Brazil is expected to increase its trade surplus by \$9 per cent to \$6bn in 1984 and reduce its current account deficit to \$4bn.

risers keeping pace with the cost of living index. The higher paid, however, will get rises below the index rate.

The Government, which is to try to negotiate the new decree through Congress, hopes that it will meet the approval of the IMF.

The state of emergency in the capital prohibits public meetings, allows detentions and raids on people's homes without a warrant and restrictions on unions and professional associations.

The measures enforceable by the local military command for 60 days expressly do not include censorship but they are clearly designed to put pressure on Congress to think carefully before rejecting the latest decree on wage rises.

The measures needed, according to the Government, to isolate Congress from "agitators" came as no surprise and many senators and deputies had been expecting worse.

Colombo judges overturn ruling on loyalty oath

From Donovan Moldrich Colombo

A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court yesterday held by seven to two that they and the judges of the Court of Appeal had at no stage ceased to hold office. The Attorney General had ruled on September 8 that the judges had given up office by failing to take an oath disavowing separatism before the President of Sri Lanka, who had appointed them.

The judges had taken their oaths before each other. As a result of the Attorney General's ruling the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal were closed for a week and armed guards were posted at the judges' chambers. The judges were able to resume their duties only after they took the oath before President Jayewardene who then announced in a press statement that the judges had been "reappointed".

When court hearings were disrupted the Chief Justice, Mr Neville Samarakoon, and four other Supreme Court judges were hearing an appeal by the publishers of the *Saturday Review* against its closure by the Government. When hearings were resumed Mr S. Nadesan, QC, appearing for the *Saturday Review* argued that the judges were in order in taking their oaths before each other.

Housing cut 'will cost jobs'

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

House-builders yesterday described the Government's cut in home improvement funds as "devastating" and predicted up to 30,000 redundancies as a result.

The National Home Improvement Council, which represents manufacturers of building materials, said that repairs were very labour intensive and the Government had

declared effectively a freeze on housing improvements until 1985.

The Building Trades Employers' Federation said that there would be a substantial increase in the 400,000 workers already laid off.

Chancellor's officials said that the decision to cut the Exchequer subsidy for home improvement grants and to cut their advances

would lead to further deterioration of the 5.2 million homes in England built before the First World War.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities has calculated that it will take 900 years for the existing stock of houses in Britain to be replaced, assuming a useful life of about 60 years for each home.

Classroom reform urged by ICI man

From Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent, Newmarket

The examination system and what children learn in school were criticised yesterday by Mr Bob Finch, schools liaison officer for ICI, who said that without change the country would pay a heavy price.

Reform of the system was being blocked by parents and politicians, who had a touching, faith in O levels, he told a training conference for deputy heads, organized by the Cambridge Institute for Education in Newmarket.

The curriculum was too narrow and children should not be taught in the present "boxes" of subjects, he said. The examination system was unsatisfactory because it labelled most children as failures and was in any case, inefficient at what it attempted to do.

Mr Finch said that employers were critical of the present system. They were often much more forward-looking than the education world, and certainly much more so than they were given credit for, he said.

Parents were the key to change and had to be involved schools on a more regular basis. Conceding that it was diffi-

cult to persuade those who had done well out of present system, he said parents could be won round in the end. "Employers will be won round more quickly because there is a great deal of dissatisfaction in Marks and Spencer, BP and in the banks". This was the time to change because people could see that an education was not necessarily leading either to university, a polytechnic or a job.

"One of the inadequacies of the curriculum is that it concentrates almost entirely on the acquisition and regurgitation of knowledge", he said. What employers really wanted were people with the ability to work as a team and who were able to make decisions on limited information, such as a young girl who threw her brothers and sisters to safety out of the window when the family home was burning down. ICI needed graduates with these abilities, he said.

Mr Finch, who is member of the Hargreaves Committee looking at under-achievement in inner London, also said that schools were ludicrously under-capitalized in new technology.

Whisky case hearing adjourned

The hearing of a case in which a Crown Court judge and a secondhand car dealer are accused of attempting to evade customs duty on cigarettes, tobacco and liquor was adjourned by Ramsgate magistrates in Kent yesterday.

Neither the judge, Keith Bruce Campbell, aged 67, of King's Bench Walk, Temple London, nor Alan Raphael Foreman, aged 45, of Parkside House, High Street, Wimbledon, south west London, was present.

They face three joint charges under the Customs and Excise Act, 1969.

The two men are accused of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent attempt at evasion of duty chargeable on 9,460 cigarettes, 500 grammes of tobacco, a litre each of vodka, gin and Drambuie and 125 litres of whisky on August 21.

They are also charged with failing to make report by notifying a yellow flag after crossing the limits of the customs port of Ramsgate, and failing to deliver the relevant customs document to a customs officer.

Moi frees two more Kenya detainees

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Two more detainees held after a wave of political dissent and an abortive coup attempt here last year were freed yesterday.

The release of a Nairobi University law lecturer, Mr Willy Mutunga, and the head of the university electrical engineering department, Professor Alfred Otieno, was announced on Kenya Day - anniversary of the day on which the late President Jomo Kenyatta was arrested and detained by the colonial authorities here in the days of the Mau-Mau rebellion in 1952.

Last week two other detainees - a lawyer, Mr John Khaminwa, and Professor Al-Amin Mazrui - were freed, and the former vice-president of Kenya, Mr Oginga Odinga, was freed from an order restricting him to his house in western Kenya.

Another eight Kenyans are still in detention, but President Moi has given an assurance that their cases are regularly reviewed.

Amnesty International and other organization have been pressing the Kenya Government to free the detainees.

CND expects 200,000 on march

By a Staff Reporter

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is expecting more than 200,000 supporters in central London on Saturday to launch the final stage of its struggle to keep cruise missiles out of Britain.

The protesters, who will arrive in more than 400 chartered coaches and 40 special trains, will take part in two marches from the Victoria Embankment to Hyde Park, accompanied by music and street entertainers.

The day-long protest will culminate in a rally in the park, where speakers will include such stalwarts of the peace movement as Mr E. P. Thompson, the historian, Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, and Bishop Trevor Huddleston, president of the National Peace Council, as well as Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, and Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal MP for Yeovil.

Mr Kent has said that the scale of the demonstration will make it clear to the Government that it had not won the argument about the deployment of cruise missiles in Britain. The issue had hardly come up during the election campaign "except in the most crude propagandist fashion".

He has conceded, however, that he is less hopeful than he was at the beginning of the year of persuading Britain and other Nato governments to abandon cruise and Pershing missiles.

The main hope lay in West Germany where the scale of this week's demonstrations showed the "extremely fluid" state of public opinion.

If, however, missiles are placed in Britain, the peace movement would make it "extremely difficult" for them to be deployed beyond the confines of their bases.

Saturday's marches and rally will have more international flavour than earlier CND protests. Representatives of the United States peace movement such as Sister Mary Luke Tobin, an anti-Vietnam war activist, will be joining the demonstration together with 70 members of the American Bread and Puppet Theatre Company, who have brought more than a ton of equipment by chartered plane to stage plays.

The marches, parts of which are more likely to resemble a carnival than an expression of discontent, are likely to choke the area between Waterloo and Westminster bridge.

The two files of protesters will leave the Victoria Embankment at about 11.30 am. They will pass Whitehall where leaders will lay a wreath at the Centotaph.

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Weathermen blamed for ships trapped in ice

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Moscow yesterday began to count the cost of the Arctic ice emergency. *Pravda* said that the crisis never have arisen. In an unusually frank analysis, the newspaper blamed incompetent weather forecasting and the antiquated Arctic cargo fleet.

Pravda disclosed that some 90 vessels had been trapped in the ice three weeks ago - more than previously thought - but only 50 had become totally immobilized. Of those, 35 are still trapped. One cargo ship has sunk and some are sinking as the ice crushes their hulls. But

others been led safely by icebreakers.

Scientists have been flown to the rescue operation headquarters at Pevek, on the Sea of Chukotsk, from the Arctic Research Centre in Leningrad to help icebreakers to spot potential cracks in the ice.

Pravda said that the sudden fall in temperature, which had caused the crisis had not been predicted by meteorologists, who had assured Merchant Marine officials that the north-east Siberian coast would remain ice-free in early October.

Soho What?

If you can answer writer and Soho habitué Jeffrey Bernard's question in the Great Speculator Car Chase Competition you could win the mint condition 1934 Daimler limousine that's first prize.

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Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or date.

Reagan pledges to stay course on Middle East and Euromissiles

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan, exuding confidence and looking increasingly like a man bent on seeking reelection, has pledged that the US will maintain a firm course in the Middle East and Central America, ensure the free flow of oil from the Gulf and deploy intermediate-range nuclear weapons in western Europe on schedule.

Addressing the twentieth press conference of his Administration on Wednesday night the President vowed that American marines would remain in Beirut despite renewed attacks against them and accused Syria, "aided and abetted by 7,000 Soviet advisers and technicians", of trying to destroy the chances of stability in Lebanon.

He said the Syrians were contributing "disorder and trouble" in the region by deliberately "dragging their feet" because they believed in a Greater Syria that would include much of Jordan and Lebanon. "Now, if they're doing it with the idea of wearing me down they are going to be disappointed", he added.

Most of the questions during the 35-minute press conference dealt with foreign affairs, the majority with the Middle East, reflecting growing public concern about the casualty toll among the 1,600-strong American contingent in the Multinational Force. Six US marines have been killed in recent weeks.

"As long as there's a possibility of making the overall peace plan work, we're going to

stay there", the President declared.

On domestic issues he claimed that the first 1,000 days of his Administration had brought about "great strides" in the economy and that a strong recovery was sending Americans back to work.

This is expected to be the central theme of his reelection campaign next year. But the President gave no clues about whether he would definitely seek a second term except to say that he would make up his mind before his seventieth birthday next February.

He also reluctantly promised to sign the Martin Luther King Holiday Bill approved by the Senate on Wednesday, but cautioned against any "disorderly" celebration when he carefully avoided denying charges that the late civil rights leader had been a communist sympathizer.

President Reagan's pledge to keep US Marines in Beirut came hours after a fresh amphibious unit of 1,800 left for the Mediterranean to replace those now on duty.

Rejecting suggestions that the Marines should be allowed to deploy beyond their present positions around Beirut airport he nevertheless reassured questioners that they would always defend themselves and he would provide that defence.

President Reagan, who has been conducting a top level review of Middle Eastern policy this week, emphasized that his September 1982 peace initiative

remains in place but that progress hinges on resolving the deadlock in Lebanon.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq conflict he said the West would not allow Iran to carry out its threat to close the Gulf to oil traffic if Iraq uses recently-acquired French aircraft. However he would not say what action the US might take if the Iranians closed the Strait of Hormuz.

On Central America, the President broadly defended the right of the US Administration to use covert action "when it believes its interests are best served".

His remarks, which coincided with a similar statement by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, came on the eve of a Congressional debate on whether to cut off covert US aid to Nicaragua.

LONDON: Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, called on Israel and the Arab states to reconsider President Reagan's Middle East peace proposals yesterday (Henry Stanhope writes).

Britain still strongly supported it as the best basis for discussion, he told the Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers Association in London.

Mr Luce, who is visiting Israel, Jordan and Egypt early next month, also reaffirmed British belief in the European Venice Declaration and its two main principles - Israel's right to exist and the Palestinian right to self-determination.

Lebanese leaders ready to talk peace in Geneva

From Robert Flak, Beirut

As Lebanese troops in the hills above Beirut came under renewed artillery fire yesterday, all but one of the political leaders invited to discuss the future of their country were reported to have agreed that the first session of a national reconciliation conference should be held in Geneva.

Only old Mr Pierre Gemayel, leader of the right-wing Christian Phalange Party, had failed by yesterday evening to consent to the latest venue, though it will almost certainly be forthcoming since he is the President's father.

Government officials were saying privately that the talks would probably be held in the United Nations Centre at Geneva, a location far enough removed from Beirut in geography and political temperature for the participants to create the framework of a new Lebanese constitution.

Mr Walid Jumblatt was the first to suggest Geneva as the venue; the Swiss city contains a great number of fine restaurants, but the other seven participants are at a loss to

Israeli run on shares predicted

From Christopher Walker, Tel Aviv

The Israeli Government is launching a nationwide publicity campaign to try to avert a stock market crash when Tel Aviv exchange opens again next Monday for ordinary trading.

Addressing an emergency meeting of Israeli newspaper editors, Mr David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, has given a grim warning that a collapse of the Stock Exchange and of the banking system would endanger the very future of the state.

The Treasury and the main commercial banks had devised an elaborate scheme designed to prevent the 600,000 bank shareholders rushing to sell them when the market reopens.

After being closed for two weeks, the Tel Aviv exchange - often referred to as "the national casino" because of its popularity as a potential hedge against 130 per cent inflation - opened yesterday for trading in bonds only.

Bonn wary of Soviet blackmail

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Bonn yesterday gave a warning that the Soviet Union's relentless build-up of its military forces would subject the West to political blackmail unless it took urgent steps now to restore the military balance.

These included the deployment on schedule, if necessary, of new Nato missiles to counter the Soviet monopoly in medium-range nuclear weapons. Nato had also to improve its conventional forces, which at present were only "just sufficient" for effective forward defence.

The warning was included in a 265-page White Paper outlining long-term defence policy. It minced no words in detailing the threat from the Soviet Union, its expansionist philosophy and present military superiority which increasingly threatened the West's political and economic interests throughout the world.

The paper's publication, two days before the huge rallies planned by opponents of Nato missile deployment, is a clear attempt by the Government to sway the public argument, and



Brussels protest: Fran Katharina Focke (centre right) a former West German Cabinet Minister protesting with other MEPs over the deployment of Nato missiles.

in the words of Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, to make up for public ignorance and the one-sided and misleading views of security policies now being spread throughout Germany.

Bonn's "peace policy" did not threaten anyone and was intended solely to guarantee peace in freedom and independence, he said. It included the readiness for dialogue and cooperation with the East, and arms control agreements aiming at the lowest possible level of armaments.

By contrast, the Russians saw military power as a "tool for achieving the objectives of their

power policy regardless of what other countries may want".

Herr Wörner stated that there was no actual danger of war in Europe at present. The real hazard lay in Soviet readiness to use military force, directly or indirectly, as a means of policy.

Herr Wörner told a press conference that credible deterrence was still the only way of ensuring freedom for the foreseeable future. He was not eager for the new Nato missiles, but there was no returning to the days of nuclear innocence.

Nato was still able to stop an attack by the Warsaw Pact, but only just, the White Paper said. Any further reduction in its

forces would undermine this capability.

The White Paper said, that defence was increasing its price: Germany was increasing its defence budget next year by 3.2 per cent to a total of DM58,950m (£14,740m).

GENEVA: The Soviet chief delegate at US-Soviet talks on limiting nuclear missile forces in Europe, Mr Yuri Kisvitskiy said yesterday that the negotiations had no prospect for success though they would continue for the time being (Reuter reports). "We will keep talking as long as it is necessary, as long as there are prospects", he said.

Andropov's Sofia visit in doubt

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Speculation about the health of President Yuri Andropov increased yesterday as doubts grew about his impending visit to Bulgaria.

Soviet officials had earlier let it be known that Mr Andropov would visit Sofia in the "second half of October". Officials hinted that he would use the visit - planned for next Tuesday - to make an important speech on East-West issues. Diplomats said that he might launch Geneva.

Moscow has said that it might walk out of the Geneva talks on medium range missiles. Warsaw Pact foreign ministers meeting in Sofia last week said that Russia would continue the talks provided Nato did not deploy new American missiles in Europe in December.

Observers feel that Mr Andropov will have to make a

strong public statement for the sake of his political credibility. Yesterday, however, East European sources said that the Sofia visit was no longer certain. A Foreign Ministry official, asked about the reports, said that the Bulgarian visit was "news to me". East European sources said that a proposed visit to Moscow by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, was also in question.

As no firm announcements about either visit have been made in the Soviet press, announcements of their cancellation are not likely.

The reports have none-the-less raised eyebrows in Moscow and have revived questions over Mr Andropov's health. He has not been seen in public since August, when he received US Democratic senators. He made no statement about the Korean airliner crisis

until the end of September, when he referred to it in the course of a response to President Reagan's latest arms control proposals. The response, which was bitter in tone, was read on television by an announcer, and no pictures of Mr Andropov appeared.

In a curious slip reminiscent of President Brezhnev's final days a year ago, the announcer inserted a passage on Warsaw Pact manoeuvres which bore no relation to the rest of Mr Andropov's statement as published in the press. Broadcasting authorities are reported to have been reprimanded.

Diplomats said that reports of Mr Andropov's recurring illness and doubts about his Bulgarian visit might be used by Politburo opponents to underline his two-month disappearance from public view.

Russians not amused by Callaghan quip

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Mr James Callaghan has told the Russians that they cost him the 1979 election by coining the epithet "Iron Lady" for Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Callaghan, who is on a week-long visit here, made the remark during talks with Mr Boris Ponomarev, a candidate Politburo member.

Mr Callaghan said that the term "Iron Lady", although meant to be complimentary, had been turned to political advantage by Mrs Thatcher. Mr Callaghan remarked jocularly that if the Kremlin had not intervened in 1979 he might have continued as Prime Minister. Mr Ponomarev, who is not known for his gift of spontaneous repartee, did not respond.

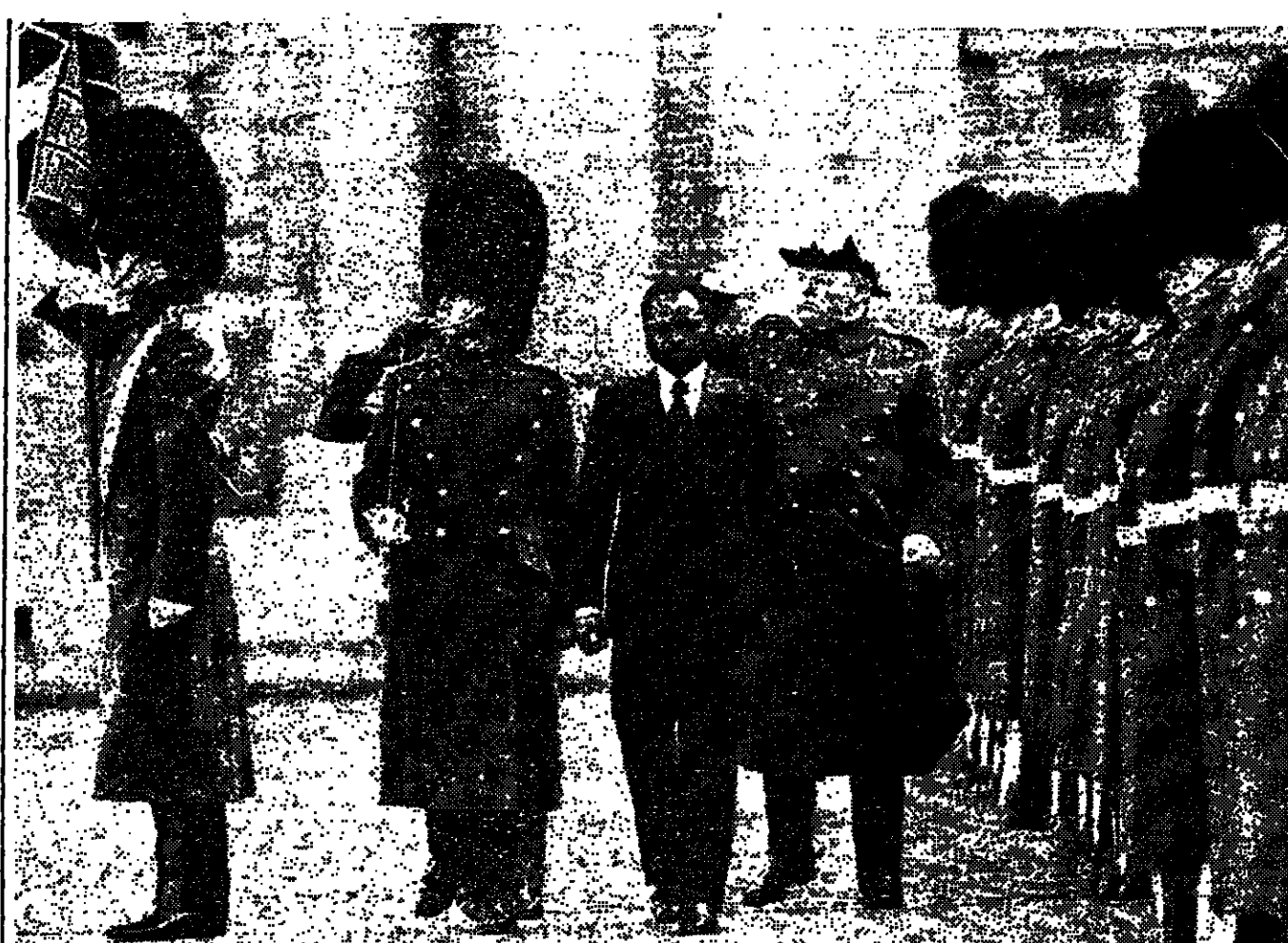
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President Samora Machel of Mozambique, inspecting a guard of honour of the Scots Guards in Whitehall yesterday. On his first, three-day visit to Britain, he had talks with Mrs Thatcher and then lunched with her. Last night he addressed members of the British business community before a reception hosted by the British Overseas Trade Board and a Government dinner at Lancaster House.

Enigma of Caribbean bloodbath Power struggle in Grenada

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain

A shocked Caribbean was puzzling yesterday over how the political crisis in Grenada could have escalated so quickly and violently.

What had been carefully represented by the ruling New Jewel Movement as a conflict between the party and the Prime Minister, Mr Maurice Bishop, over party discipline and personal power exploded suddenly into a bloodbath, with far-reaching implications for Grenada and Caribbean politics.

The differences between Mr Bishop and his deputy, Mr Bernard Coard, were about tactics and timing rather than basic ideology. The issue that led to the confrontation may have been constitutional reform and when and how to organize some form of elections.

Mr Bishop had been under strong pressure at two recent Caribbean Community summit meetings to proceed quickly to a new constitution and open the way for elections.

Earlier this year, on a trip to the US seen as a gesture of conciliation in the face of American hostility, Mr Bishop announced a constitutional commission to begin public hearings soon.

He had been trying to give a more positive international image to the revolution and secure economic support for a continued role for the island's private sector.

Mr Coard and his Jamaican-

born wife, Phyllis, also a government minister, are known to have disapproved of Mr Bishop's more relaxed approach and are thought to favour a more conventional political direction.

A heavily built, bearded, normally cheery figure, Mr Coard is a Marxist-Leninist and the ruling party's chief ideologue. Described by some observers as a man obsessed with power, he has kept out of sight throughout the week-long crisis, though the tone and wording of official announcements from the armed forces suggest political direction and possibly Mr Coard's pen.

While many who know him saw nothing to suggest he would conceive of eliminating Mr Bishop and his supporters in the Government so ruthlessly, others argue that the freeing

of Mr Bishop by a loyal crowd was exploited to implement a long-standing ambition to remove him from the scene and accelerate the revolution.

Official versions of the conflict, it is argued, were having no effect on Grenadians. Demonstrations in support of Mr Bishop were continuing, ministers loyal to the Prime Minister were in open revolt, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Union Whiteman, had said that Mr Coard was not interested in dialogue and the people must free their leader.

Mr Bishop may have played straight into his enemies' hands by leading the crowd that freed him into St George's, apparently believing everything would fall before him.

Mr Coard, aged 39 is a political science and economics graduate of Brandeis University in the United States, and took a Master's degree in comparative political economy from Sussex University, after which he taught in Britain and lectured at the University of the West Indies. When he returned to Grenada, he ran the Organization for Revolutionary Education and Liberation, which taught Marxism-Leninism.

According to some reports, Mrs Coard and their two children left Grenada earlier this week and Mr Coard had already detained several army officers loyal to the Prime Minister when Mr Bishop returned from a trip to Hungary and Czechoslovakia just before the crisis.

How US misread island signals

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration yesterday expressed its "grave concern" about the bloody coup on Grenada. And well it might as the political situation on the tiny Caribbean island has turned out in exactly the opposite way that Washington had hoped.

Washington, concerned by the links which Mr Maurice Bishop, the murdered Prime Minister, had developed with Cuba and the Soviet Union, had sought to bring the island state to heel by cutting off economic aid and reducing diplomatic ties to a minimum.

America saw the tilt to the left which had taken place since Mr Bishop seized power in 1979 as part of a broader pattern of encroachment in the Caribbean and Central American region.

Grenada was frequently mentioned by American officials in the same breath as Nicaragua as counties which posed a threat to the stability of the region.

In a speech earlier this year President Reagan warned that "Grenada bears the Soviet and Cuban trademark, which means it will attempt to spread the virus among its neighbours."

The main object of American concern was the new airport, with its 10,000 ft runway, which is being built on the island. Mr

Bishop said the airport was needed to accommodate jumbo jets carrying tourists from America and Europe. Tourism provides the island with its main source of foreign exchange.

The Americans, however, feared the airport could be used by the Soviet and Cuban Air Forces. Mr Reagan showed aerial photographs of the airfield during a televised address he made to justify his hardline policy towards central America and the Caribbean.

Because Washington was so convinced that Grenada had fallen completely under the influence of Cuba and the Soviet Union, it failed to recognize Mr Bishop's vain attempts earlier this year to improve relations and to tilt his country in a more pro-Western and less socialist direction.

He twice wrote to Mr Reagan seeking a meeting but his letters went unanswered. Eventually he visited Washington in June but had to wait more than a week before anyone in the Administration would see him.

He finally managed to see Mr William Clark, then the National Security Adviser, and Mr Kenneth Dan, the Deputy Secretary of State. However, the talks did not change American attitudes.

Caribbean outraged

Bridgeport, Barbados (Reuter) - Caribbean Governments and politicians reacted with shock and outrage to Grenada's army takeover.

The Prime Ministers of Barbados, Mr Tom Adams, described the island's new rulers as disgusting murderers and barbarians, and said he would not be sitting down with them in meetings of Caricom, the Caribbean common market.

Jamaica's Prime Minister, Mr Edward Seaga, also said he would not take part in any Caricom meetings with Grenada's new rulers, whom he called murderers.

Antigua and Barbuda, as chairman of Caricom's standing foreign ministers committee, has called for an urgent meeting of the grouping.

The Jamaican Socialist opposition leader, Mr Michael Manley, a personal friend of President Castro, as was the murdered Grenadian Prime Minister, Mr Maurice Bishop, describing his killing as a squalid betrayal of the hopes of the ordinary people in the region.

In London, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr Sir Kenneth Dugall, issued a statement saying "I share the sense of horror widespread throughout the Commonwealth. I feel sure that Commonwealth Caribbean Governments will wish to use every influence... to ensure that the will and the interests of the people of Grenada are respected..."

Europe prunes budget by £283m

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Tough, "good management" measures are now being followed by the European Commission to save as much as £283m from this year's EEC budget. In tandem with a series of decisions now likely to be taken by the European Parliament, they increase the pressure on governments to agree to important reforms to Community financing by the end of the year.

There was no question when the Commission met late in Wednesday evening to decide what to do about the cash flow crisis that every one of the 14 members was acutely aware of the urgent need to do something to make sure the Community budget would last out the year. In the end it was decided to exploit the crisis by making provision to save twice as much as might be needed.

The main measure approved was, as expected, the continuation of the freeze on the payment of some premiums, storage and export refunds, which had first been brought in on Tuesday of last week. This can be lifted if finances improve radically, but by the end of the year it could mean savings of as much as £121m from this year's budget. In all events the money would still have to be paid to traders, but only out of next year's budget.

In addition to this there is likely to be the saving of £50m, more than 80 per cent of which would go to Britain, of the new premium, which is normally paid in early December. This is now likely to be paid in January, but the Commission intends to propose ending the present system of advance payment in favour of the cheaper method and asking for it to be paid at the end of the season in arrears.

All the other measures being introduced can be extended indefinitely and all represent real savings which the Community can make. The largest part of these is the £82m being pruned by dint of a different method of determining losses on state intervention - a measure which has been under study for some months.

There could also be permanent savings made by the decision to reduce the interest paid to member states to finance intervention stocks from 9 per cent to 8 per cent. This will save £2.5m this year and could save as much as £22m in a full year.

The other idea being introduced will reduce the amount of skimmed milk powder being sold off to be mixed into pig and poultry feed. This is a very expensive method of eating up the dried milk powder mountain, costing 70 per cent of the intervention price.

Reducing the amount sold for feed will save some £27.5m this year, although it is unlikely that it will be extended for too long as it will mean that the surplus of powder will keep on growing.

This saving for 1983 of £283m is well in excess of the £156m shortfall in expenditure which is being forecast. But it is hoped that this stringency will force member states to realize they can no longer go on expecting the common agricultural policy to go on being paid out in full as in the past.

Mr Minor's opinion said Mr DeLorean was "deceptive" in his response to four questions involving his relationship with Mr James Timothy Hoffman, identified as the Government's informer in events leading up to Mr DeLorean's arrest on the drug charges exactly a year ago this week.

The battle over which lie-detector test to accept moves today to the courtroom of Judge Robert Takasog, who is due to preside over the trial on November 1. He will rule whether either of the test results can be admitted as evidence.

The latest test took place in FBI headquarters on Tuesday and was done by Mr Paul Minor, the FBI's chief polygraph examiner. But hours after the results of the test were made public, Mr DeLorean's chief defence lawyer, Mr Howard Weitzman, cried foul.

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Lucky Jim

How you'll envy him when he solves Kingsley Amis' question in the Great Spector Car Chase Competition and wins the mint condition 1934 Daimler limousine that's first prize!

The Spector

75p weekly

Right jubilant as union poll puts French left into minority

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The French social security fund elections, in which the Communist-led CGT and the Socialist-CFDT lost ground spectacularly to the independent and right-wing unions, was hailed as "a crushing defeat for the left" in the right-wing newspaper *Le Figaro*.

The CGT won only 28 per cent of Wednesday's vote, compared with 37 per cent in the "Ombudsman" elections last year, while the CFDT's proportion dropped from 24 per cent to 18 per cent, putting it in third place behind the moderate Force Ouvrière (25 per cent of the vote, compared to last year's 18 per cent).

For the first time in any union election, the three "reformist" unions, given the strong backing of the right-wing opposition parties and employers, now hold a majority with 53 per cent of the vote. There is no doubt the electorate heeded opposition calls to make this a political vote against the government.

The CGT, once the most powerful union by far, continued its decline and finds itself only three points ahead of the Force Ouvrière. With typical Communist panache, however, M Henri Krasucki, the CGT's general secretary, hailed the result achieved by his union as "altogether remarkable... given the composition of the electorate", pointing out that they confirmed the CGT's position as the leading French trade union.

It is true that the 30 million people eligible to vote in the social security fund election included groups like the immigrant workers, students, the unemployed, and the retired, who were not eligible to vote in the "Ombudsman" elections, which involved only 14 million workers in the private sector. The results are therefore not directly comparable, but the overall trend is indisputable.

It was the first time since 1962 that elections had been held for union representatives to sit on the management boards of the social security and health insurance funds, which together have an annual outlay of 900 billion francs (£75 billion).

M Edmond Maire, general secretary of the Socialist CFDT, blamed his union's loss of support on the "politicization" of difficulties involved in trying to get an unpopular "language of truth" and economic realism across to the general public.

M Maire has declared for example, that workers must be ready to accept a drop in real wages if there is to be a reduction in the working week to 35 hours, essential for creating more jobs. Despite being called a "Marxist revolutionary" by opposition leaders, M Maire is more properly identified as on the centre-right of the Socialist Party, as represented by M Michael Rocard, the Agriculture Minister.

China eases up on its anti-British barrage

From David Bonavia, Hongkong

The fifth round of Anglo-Chinese talks on the future of Hongkong ended here yesterday and was described by a British Embassy spokesman as "useful and constructive".

Last month the Chinese accused Britain of wanting to perpetuate its rule in Hongkong beyond the expiry of the New Territories lease in 1997.

Stores opened in another step forward along the capitalist road, China will open a fifth department store in Hongkong which will for the first time sell overseas goods in addition to Chinese-made items (Richard Hughes writes).

The sixth round is to be held on November 14 and 15. Sir Edward Youde, Governor of Hongkong, is a regular participant.

The British delegation, headed by Sir Percy Cradock, the Ambassador to Peking, is under strict orders from the Prime Minister to disclose nothing of the contents. Nor did the Chinese press repeat the barrage of anti-British propaganda with which it accompanied the last round.

Belize, part 2: Poverty spread equally Balancing on the US-Cuba tightrope

In this second of two articles on Belize, John Curran interviews the Prime Minister.

The door of the office of Mr George Price, the Prime Minister of Belize, is always open. "That way a draught can run through," he explains. "We have no air conditioning or electric fans here."

The temperature in Belmopan, the 4,000-population capital of Belize, is never too far from the 100°F mark. But Mr Price, at 64, unmarried, in his youth a Jesuit seminarian, refuses to allow himself the frills many Latin American leaders seem to view as their right.

The floor in his office is covered with linoleum; the furniture is metal; the noise of his secretary's typewriter, deafening.

With an annual budget of US\$100m (about £65m), an almost total dependence on the fluctuating world price of sugar (Belize's main export) to make foreign exchange, and a need to import anything remotely resembling manufactured goods, Belize is a poor country even by Central American standards.

"We have no high-rise steel and glass buildings here," says Mr Price. "We believe in spreading the wealth around."

His southern neighbour, Guatemala, which has the same claim to Belize as Argentina to the Falklands, has a visibly more powerful economy than this British colony of 150,000 people. High-rise buildings abound in Guatemala City and government affairs are conducted with customary Latin American pomp.

But while the literacy rate in Belize is 92 per cent - a figure matched only by Argentina in Latin America - in Guatemala it is 37 per cent. While the average per capita income in the Belizean countryside is US\$1,000, in Guatemala 70 per cent of the population, mostly rural Indians, receive an annual income of only \$42.

Unlike Guatemala, there is not even a hint of armed



Mr Price receives constitutional instruments from Prince Michael of Kent on Independence Day

opposition in Belize because, to paraphrase Mr Price, it is poverty, and not wealth, which is spread equally. Consequently there is no visible target on which to focus social resentment.

On the second anniversary of independence from British rule, celebrated on September 21, happy crowds paraded and danced around the streets of Belize City, the country's Caribbean port.

There were reggae bands everywhere but no song drew more hip-swinging hand-clapping enthusiasm among the blacks, Asians, hispanics and occasional whites in the racially diverse city, than the local favourite, *Tell them Guatemala to leave Belize alone*.

Mr Price, very conscious of his country's atypical Central American tranquility, wrote a letter to *The Times* last month (published September 9) in which he thanked the British Government and people for the presence of the 1,800 British

troops who, as he put it, "are a factor of security and stability in a turbulent region."

Chasing to his country's internal stability is the principal aim of Mr Price's foreign policy. Under his leadership (he is also head of the People's United Party) Belize has become a member of the Non-Aligned Group. Yet Mr Price has often said that this might come Washington by distancing himself from Cuba.

While the American Embassy in Belize is growing dramatically in size, there are no diplomatic ties with Cuba. Asked whether he wished for a closer relationship with the Castro Government, Mr Price typically biblical in his allusions, replied: "Given the reality of history and geography... we know that at this stage in the world's development we can't be all things to all men."

At a time of worldwide recession, Mr Price is only too well aware of the importance to

his small country of financial aid from the Americans. For that reason he has rejected Cuban aid and its accompanying ideological strings.

Notwithstanding his shrewd foreign policy, and the British military presence, Mr Price believes that his country's best safeguard against the turbulence so close by is provided by government policies founded on social justice.

With British help Belize has been able to place budgetary emphasis on education at the expense of defence. An inscription, in bold red letters, on the side of a white Ministry of Education van in Belize City expresses this remarkable Central American anomaly with eloquence, at the same time drawing attention to Britain's reluctant military commitment: "A nation's might - not on how well its army can fight, but on how well it people can write." [concluded]

Jobs issue dominates Swiss election

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Unemployment and the environment are the two main issues in the 3.8 million Swiss go to the polls this weekend.

As in Germany, many forest trees are dying from acid rain, the cumulative effect of years of air pollution. Unemployment, compared with other nations, seems insignificant - just under one per cent, or 24,478 people.

The voters will elect 200 members to the National Council and 46 to the Council

Jobs issue dominates Swiss election

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

of States, the upper house - two for each canton.

There are about 1,800 candidates, representing 37 political groups. Among them are 440 women, including Dr Lilian Uchtenhagen, the Social Democrat member in the outgoing Parliament who was the first woman nominated by a coalition party for a seat in the Cabinet, the seven-member Federal Council.

Two portfolios have been vacant since the resignation of

Jobs issue dominates Swiss election

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

M Georges-André Chevallaz, the Defence Minister, and the death of Herr Willi Ritschard, the Finance Minister.

The coalition parties are the Social Democrats, Radical Democrats, Christian Democrats and Swiss People's Party.

Because of unemployment, particular attention is being paid to the performance of the three small right-wing parties - National Action, Republican Movement and Vigilantes (Geneva only)

Danish oil rig breaks loose

From Christopher Follet, Copenhagen

One seaman died and 39 oilmen were rescued by helicopter and flown unharmed to Gotenburg, Sweden, when a Danish oil rig broke loose from two towboats in stormy weather in the Kattegat.

The rig, the *Maersk Explorer*, owned by A.P. Moller, the Danish industrial and oil prospecting concern, was on its way from the Kattegat.

Privy Council

Judge not entitled to accuse airline

Malcolm, Air New Zealand Ltd and others

Before Lord Bridge, Lord Keith of Kinkor, Lord Scarman, Lord Bingham of Highways and Lord Templeman. [Judgment delivered October 20]

A New Zealand judge conducting a commission of inquiry failed to adhere to the rules of natural justice that a finding had to be based on material which had been legally revealed to the facts to be determined and that any person represented at the inquiry who would be adversely affected by a finding should be made aware of the risk of that finding being made and given an opportunity to be heard.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council dismissed an appeal by Peter Thomas Mahon against an order of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand (Mr Justice Cooke, Mr Justice Richardson, Mr Justice McMillin and Mr Justice Somers) made on December 22, 1981, quashing an order made by the appellant then a judge of the High Court of New Zealand, in his capacity as a royal commissioner, that the first respondent, Air New Zealand Ltd (ANZ), should pay \$150,000 by way of contribution to the cost of the Royal Commission's inquiry into the crash on Mount Erebus, Antarctica, of a DC10 aircraft operated by ANZ. By his appeal to the Judicial Committee the appellant sought that the costs order made by him against ANZ should be restored.

The second and third respondents, Mr M. R. Davis (chief executive of ANZ at the time of the crash) and Captain L. E. Gossnell (technical flight manager) were both employees of ANZ. The fourth respondent, the Attorney-General for New Zealand, was joined in the proceedings in the Court of Appeal to represent the public interest.

Sir Francis Neill, QC (of the New Zealand Bar), Mr Nicolas Bratza and Mr Robert Chambers (of the New Zealand Bar) for the appellant; Mr Robert Alexander, QC and Mr Lloyd Brown, QC and Mr R. J. McGee (both of the New Zealand Bar) for Air New Zealand; Mr D. A. R. Williams and Mr L. L. Stevens (both of the New Zealand Bar) for the second and third

Law Report October 21 1983

Jobs issue dominates Swiss election

to the Department of Justice NZ\$150,000 by way of contribution to the public cost of the inquiry. That order had been made in the exercise of a statutory power of decision and to that extent, if it so were, the Royal Commission report was subject to review.

The judge's reason for making the costs order appeared in paragraph 377 of the report. He held that the judge had been misled by a concerted plan of deliberate concealment of all documents which might point to mismanagement by ANZ of the Antarctic flights.

Further, the Court of Appeal and the Board were entitled to reject the judge's findings that there had been a concerted concealment of ANZ's adoption of a new southerly waypoint for Antarctic sightings flights.

That was mainly on the ground that the judge failed to observe the rule that both sides should be heard and that the inferences he drew from the evidence were based on a logical fallacy.

The judge's particular and crucial findings as to destruction of documents and adoption of the new waypoint were open to rejection on judicial review. They constituted a substantial part of the material which was the basis of paragraph 377.

The judge's accusations against the airline in that paragraph were entitled to reach and the costs order which constituted the punishment imposed on ANZ for the conduct there found should be set aside.

His Lordship added that to say of a person who held judicial office that he had failed to observe a rule of natural justice, might sound to a lay ear as if it were a severe criticism of his conduct which carried with it moral overtones.

But that was far from being the case. It was a criticism which might be, and in the instant case was certainly, made by their Lordships in making it to be wholly dissociated from any moral overtones.

Each of their Lordships had set out the rules of natural justice that applied to the appeal.

It was easy enough to slip up over one or other of them in civil litigation, particularly when one was subject to pressure of time in preparing a judgment after hearing masses of evidence in a long and highly complex suit.

In the case of a judgment in ordinary civil litigation such failure to observe rules of natural justice was simply one possible ground of appeal among many others and attracted no particular attention.

All their Lordships could remember highly respected colleagues who, as trial judges, had appeals against judgments that had delivered allowed on that ground, and no one thought any the worse of them for it.

So their Lordships' recommendation that the appeal ought to be dismissed could not have any adverse effect upon the reputation of the judge among those who understood the legal position, and it should not do so with anyone else.

Solicitors: Macartneys, Linklaters & Paines, Allen & Overy.

Divisional Court

No power to stay before petition

Sandhu v Khan

Before Mr Justice Walton and Mr Justice Nicholls. [Judgment delivered October 19]

There was no jurisdiction to stay bankruptcy proceedings before presentation of a bankruptcy petition.

Mr Justice Walton and Mr Justice Nicholls sitting in the Divisional Chancery Division allowed an appeal from the order of Mr Registrar Russell in the Salford County Court on December 7, 1982 who ordered that bankruptcy proceedings be stayed pending an attempt to stay proceedings under a bankruptcy notice was made without jurisdiction and should be set aside.

Mr Justice Nicholls delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Adam Brava & Metson; Charnley & Abel, Manchester.

THE ARTS

Opera Shortage of style

Idomeneo Theatre Royal, Glasgow

This is the year of *Idomeneo*, with Jean-Pierre Ponnelle at Salzburg, Trevor Nunn at Glyndebourne and now, as if not to be outdone, John Cox for Scottish Opera. But this new production is really a second-hand affair: although it claims to be radically rethought, it is basically the Turner-inspired collaboration of John Cox and his designer, Roger Butlin, which Glyndebourne saw 10 years ago.

The obvious parallel is drawn between the classicist Turner "capable of supreme romantic violence" and the Mozart of the recharged *opera seria*, and that is that. The circular, semi-framed cultural side-show accounts for an initial confusion of perceptive level, yields subsequent risible moments (protagonists peer into the projected pictures and throw space to them) and, with an apology for arches and steps, leaves little space on stage for very much else.

Not that there is very much else. The Scottish Opera chorus, who sing best and suffer most, are a motley crew of drab court ladies, Crestan officers, removal men and Greek orthodox priests. (Idomeneo appears to help himself to a host before the sacrifice), and have neither space nor incentive to relate significantly to the principals.

For, just as the misconceived Turner idea makes one static and superficial point, so the

Nicholas Kenyon meets Göran Järvefelt (right), producer of the Welsh National Opera Ring which begins in Cardiff tonight

When *The Ring* opens at the Welsh National Opera in Cardiff tonight it will be only the beginning of a massive undertaking for the 35-year-old Swedish director Göran Järvefelt, one which represents a huge investment by the Welsh company in his relatively untried talents. WNO asked Järvefelt to stage *The Ring* as early as 1979 after the success of his first visit to the company, when he produced *The Magic Flute*. Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* (not surprisingly transferred back to its Swedish setting) followed in 1982, and now *The Ring* will unfold over two seasons, with *The Walk* in February, *Siegfried* in September and *Twilight of the Gods* in February 1985.

Järvefelt, who began his career as an actor and then a theatre director in Sweden, has a quietly-spoken, gentle manner which belies an intensity that shines from his huge eyes. *"Ringgold"* is an introduction, a statement; it says one thing. It's very important to remember that Wagner wrote the text of *The Ring* early on, when he was still an idealist. Later he changed the end completely, so he did not change *Ringgold*. So I want to illuminate that change, to present each of the operas differently. They will not all look like *Ringgold*, but at all. There is no unit set; some elements will return, yes, sometimes symbolic, sometimes more naturalistic. *The Ring* will grow from character but it does not go in a straight line, and during these rehearsals now I am coming to see more exactly how we shall do *Götterdämmerung*.

How far did he go into rehearsal, then, with a definite idea of what he wanted? "I go totally prepared. I must have a year or more to think out a new production. But I also need to be flexible, because the singers will make a great difference and I need to respond to what they bring to the opera. But that means I have to be doubly prepared, not less prepared. I start from the music. I want to show why it is convincing. What is that high note: is it a scream of pain, or joy? I want to transform it in psychological terms. I try to do a very physical kind of opera so that you can read what is going on in the bodies. If the whole body is there expressing the music, then I begin to seem more natural that they sing instead of speaking."

So with what ideas did he go into the *Ringgold* rehearsal? "Wagner was a politician, but in art. He thought people would change because they saw his operas, and come out of the theatre transformed. I'm not quite that optimistic! Wagner believed that ownership was a crime, and in *Ringgold* he shows how this crime started. *Ringgold* shows a very negative, power-crazed world, like Wagner knew. It's a comment on his society as much as a retelling of the legends. And it is very different from what comes later, in *Walkyrie* and especially in *Siegfried*, where the power-

Doubly prepared

hidden world gives way to a new idealized humanistic world. "We began set the opera in the Industrial Revolution - heavy scenery, mines and so on. The costumes and the make-up show there are no humans here, they haven't even got any real skin. The Rhinemaidens are all green, the gods all white, the giants - who are workers - are brown, and Alberich, a miner, is all black. It is partly symbolic, partly real. I could not just do it as a story in a factory, because Wagner uses the legends. And I could not do it just as a Nordic saga, because Wagner is using that all the time to comment on his own age. We are trying to find a third time, a theatrical time, where it takes place.

"It is far from Wieland Wagner's concept of symbolism. I was at first afraid, because the music needs such space, it is so vast, and we cannot have revolving stages and hydraulic platforms and all that. So I am trying for a very immediate kind of opera. I want people to follow the story in the text from character to character, to see their eyes and their movements, to identify with them. It is very important to understand the text, so we do it in English. I miss some of the German, of course, some alliterations, but I want the audience to follow it."

Was his complete reinterpretation, like Chéreau's? "On purpose I did not see Chéreau, because it was on while I was thinking and imagining my own. I am sure it is marvellous, and I will see it later. But my idea is to show this change in Wagner's approach from an idealism to the pessimistic, metaphysical end of *Götterdämmerung*. In his first text at the end *Wotan* changes his ideas on politics and creates a new humanist world. Now the end is negative, and we must show that clearly."

And what about the elements of nature and natural forces? "Well, we do not have any real water. I can tell you that... We will have some trees, though not in *Ringgold*. I am not concerned with atmospheric effects; I want to make it theatrically alive. It's so rich, you can't limit it to one approach."

I wondered whether Järvefelt was interested in the current notion of recreating original production styles, for his earliest operatic work had been in Sweden with Arnold Ostman, first at the Västana Academy and later at Drottningholm. "It is wonderful to have the atmosphere of how the music originally sounded with the old instruments, and to have a theatre that is right. But I have never tried to do the staging historically. First, we don't know how they did it, really, and second, our audiences are different. The gestures from the past might mean something different now. But it is the same as with Wagner: the important thing is to get through what the composer wanted to say to us. Not with superficial modernizations, but to be sensitive to the inner meaning of the music."

Gnome Help

Answer Richard Ingrams' question in the Great Spector Car Chase Competition and Lord Gnome will help you win the mint condition 1934 Daimler limousine that's first prize.

The Spector
75p weekly.
Circulation runs from October 21st for eight weeks.

Prejudice in report

In re B (a minor)

Lord Justice Cuming-Bruce, sitting with Mr Justice Drake in the Court of Appeal on October 12 said that it was for the judge to decide whether he would be influenced by anything in the *guardian of libel's* confidential report which was adverse to a party in adoption proceedings.

HIS LORDSHIP said that if any such matter was going to have an effect on the judge's mind justice

Correction

In re Swensen City Council, Ex parte Quinlan Ltd (*The Times* October 19) Junior counsel for Swensen was Mr Brian Ash. Mr Charles Cross appeared for the other council.

THE ARTS

Cinema Unbeatable against all the odds



Honest and cheerful: Mickey Mouse as Bob Cratchit

From time to time he was opera singer, circus performer, impresario and actor, and it is as an actor-star that he reappears in Mickey's Christmas Carol...

Pop music Smokey Robinson Hammersmith Odeon

William "Smokey" Robinson is not content merely to stand back and recite perfect versions of the many classic songs which have made him, for more than 20 years, the most artful singer in popular music...

Pop music Smokey Robinson Hammersmith Odeon

William "Smokey" Robinson is not content merely to stand back and recite perfect versions of the many classic songs which have made him, for more than 20 years, the most artful singer in popular music...



Voluptuous and sinister: Sinead Cusack, David Bradley

Theatre

The Custom of the Country The Pit

Taking his title and his starting point from Beaumont and Fletcher, Nicholas Wright defines the custom in question as the droit de seigneur...

are clearly defined. Here is the voluptuous Mrs Bone (Sinead Cusack) running a chain of brothels in enigmatic partnership with a Jewish scholar (Bruce Myers)...

There are chillingly comic death scenes, such as a poisoned chocolate suicide pact between the brothel keepers...

Irving Wardle

Mickey's Christmas Carol (U) Odeon Leicester Square

La traviata (U) Odeon Haymarket

Malvinas: A Story of Betrayals ICA Cinema

National Lampoon's Vacation (15) various cinemas

Class (15) Leicester Square Theatre

Bullshot (PG) Classic Haymarket

The comeback of Mickey Mouse after more than thirty years' absence from the screen is an event of moment to mark the Disney diamond jubilee...

Since Jacobs wrote, time and fashion have eclipsed or at least obscured the achievement and the regard which were Disney's at the time of the Second World War...

Nor have Mickey's fame and popularity diminished in the years since he left the screen in 1952. He was born in 1928, but his personality - naive, gallant, incorrigibly optimistic - belongs supremely to the New Deal era...

Dance

Oegin Palace, Manchester

Oegin is the best of John Cranko's long dramatic ballets and one of the best made in the past half-century...

Cranko's choreography, faithfully restaged by Georgette Tsangirides, rightly put the emphasis throughout on the central figures but always set them against an animated background that gives a social context to the personal drama...

The title part is not easy to characterize. Ben van Cauwenbergh catches the right spirit although his acting is all big gestures, without much subtlety...

John Percival

Television Twilight glow

gives the impression of being an Edwardian slightly aghast at the way the century has developed, a patrician who treated politics as a game in which "personalities" played the major roles...

Part of his bequest was to be seen on Open Space (BBC 2), which took a somewhat horrified look at Earls Court. It is, it seems, "one of the most crowded places in Europe", with over 90 nationalities among its 15,000 inhabitants...

seen on Open Space (BBC 2), which took a somewhat horrified look at Earls Court. It is, it seems, "one of the most crowded places in Europe", with over 90 nationalities among its 15,000 inhabitants...

"Nothing", generally. One or two said it was "interesting", which is the English for "nightmarish".

Peter Ackroyd

Hope for the Guinless

Answer Sir Alec Guinness' question in the Great Spector Car Chase. Competition and win the most condition 1934 Daimler limousine - the first prize.

The Spector 75p weekly

Competition runs from October 21st for eight weeks.

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Why the PLO fell apart in Beirut

The Palestine Liberation Organization grew into the world's best known guerrilla army under the leadership of Yassir Arafat. Then, quite suddenly it disintegrated. What caused its downfall?

By Robert Fisk

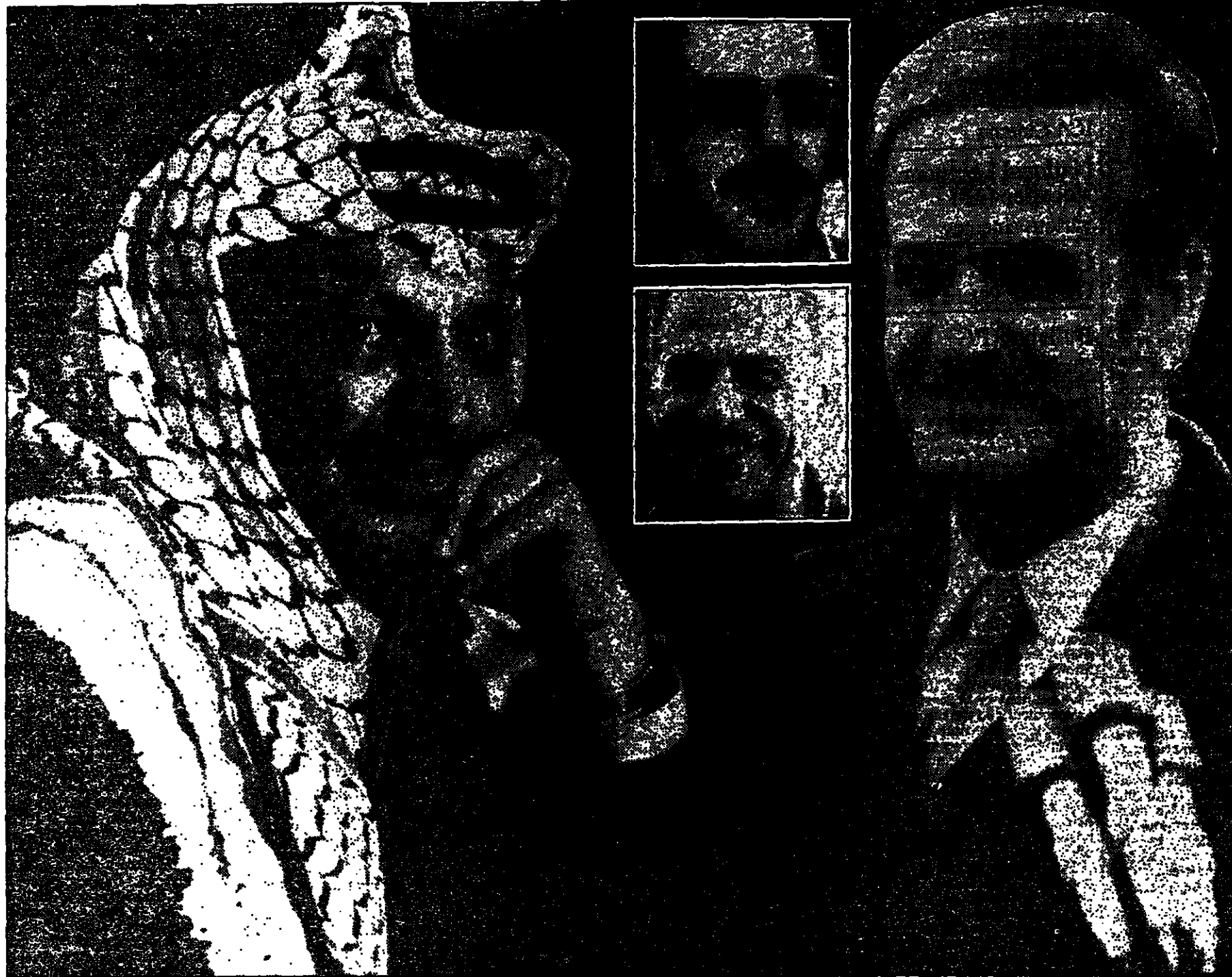
At mid-morning on Palm Sunday, 1978 Mahmoud Labadi, Yassir Arafat's bespectacled and unbane press spokesman, was driving down the main coastal highway south of Sidon. It was a bad day for the Palestinians. Israel had just sent 20,000 troops into Lebanon to attack the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Israeli jets were bombing and strafing the main road. A quarter of a million civilian refugees were walking or driving broken vehicles up the highway towards the dubious safety of Beirut. But what troubled Labadi - who three times had to take cover in the orchards beside the road as marauding jets flew overhead - was the large number of Palestinian guerrilla fighters who were also heading north. Gunmen were crowded on pick-up trucks while Fatah guerrillas holding Kalashnikov assault rifles were also fleeing the battle zone, sometimes pushing the refugees off the road in their desperation to escape.

Labadi was appalled. He drove at once back to Sidon and burst into the PLO's operations headquarters in the city suburbs where he found Yassir Arafat, for 13 years the supreme Palestinian military commander, surrounded by his most senior officers. The colonels and lieutenants whom Arafat had promoted over the years, Labadi remembers, all had "long, unshaven faces". Among them was Colonel Haj Ismael, the commander of southern Lebanon who had himself fled the battle.

Several of those present recall what happened next. Arafat, who still used his old code-name of Abu Amar, took one look at Labadi's face and asked: "What's wrong, Mahmoud, what's wrong?" And Labadi replied slowly: "Our people are running away, Abu Amar." So Arafat stood up, put his peaked military forage cap on his head and - ignoring the protestations of Haj Ismael - left his bunker and climbed into Labadi's car. Followed by his retinue of complaining colonels, he drove to an abandoned petrol station just south of the Zahran oil refinery on the main highway where he ordered four Fatah guerrillas to stand across the road and force any Palestinian fighters who were running away to turn back to the battlefield. Labadi still remembers the incident with bitterness. "Arafat was courageous," he says. "But those people like Haj Ismael were angry at me because I told Arafat the truth. They were loyal but they were cowardly."

Those Palestinians who remain loyal to Arafat and those who have forsaken him both look back to this incident as an important moment in the history of the Fatah movement, crystallizing the weakness inherent in the PLO long before last year's Israeli siege of West Beirut. How could a man of such obvious charisma as Arafat have surrounded himself with such incompetent officers? How did they ever achieve their positions? In Arafat's encircled stronghold of Tripoli today, the question is not put so bluntly. But in Damascus, the men who have turned against him - who have arguably betrayed him - look back even further for the seeds of the mutiny that has now torn apart the world's best known guerrilla army.

The first dissatisfaction with Arafat's leadership was voiced, in secret of



Face to face: Arafat and the former allies now ranged against him, Mahmoud Labadi, Moussa Arafat and President Assad of Syria

course, after the PLO was driven out of Jordan by King Hussein's army in September, 1970. As one of the mutineer officers in Damascus puts it: "We had an organization in Amman but we were not capable of holding it together. We could not restrain the Palestinian street gangs. People got rich. We harmed our relationship with the Jordanian government and with the Jordanian people. The PLO never said so at the time but we lost thousands of our members when we came to Lebanon - young men with university degrees, people we needed, who said that we could not fight, that we were corrupt. So they left Fatah."

The issue of corruption was an important one once the Palestinians had established their headquarters in the predominantly Muslim sector of West Beirut after their ejection from Jordan. Saudi Arabia began to channel many millions of pounds into the organization.

The PLO's account was never maintained at less than a million US dollars but further funds were spread around at least ten other accounts, sometimes in the names of finance committee members - men like Abu Usama, Abu Ala and Fouad Shoubaki - who in turn ploughed the money into investments for Fatah. In this way, the PLO bought a series of huge farms in Syria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Guinea. Incredibly, it also bought major shareholdings in several shipping companies operating out of Greece and Cyprus. Moussa Arafat, Yassir Arafat's own cousin, became the owner of a farm near Damascus, paid for with PLO funds.

Yassir Arafat's reaction to allegations of corruption is fierce. "They haven't the right to speak about these big lies... We haven't the ability to do (sic) any corruption. It is shameful of

PLO mutineer
'We had an organization in Amman but could not hold it together. We could not restrain the street gangs.'

them to mention it. They are repeating the rumours of dirty intelligence services."

Ahmed Abdul Rahman, the man who took over Labadi's job as Arafat's spokesman last year, insists that the PLO's funds were invested under private names because Arab states do not allow organizations like the PLO to own property. He rejects - as does Arafat - the claim by the mutineers that there are 20 millionaires among the leaders of Fatah, all of them close to Arafat himself. Nevertheless, Arafat's hold on power within the guerrilla movement is an intensely personal one. He is himself leader of Fatah's revolutionary council. His cousin Haj Mutlak is a member. So is his nephew - his sister's son - Nasser Kudwa, and so too is his brother Fathi who was brought onto the council last year.

Moussa Arafat is also on the revolutionary council. Even though one of Arafat's relatives holds an elected post the appointment of the other three was bound to lead to allegations of nepotism. Arafat's treatment of some of his military officers gave these charges the smell of insurrection. Back in 1976, for

Yassir Arafat
'The people who talk like this are trying to destroy our glorious revolution. It is shameful. They are repeating rumours.'

example, the PLO commander in southern Lebanon was a middle-aged Fatah officer called Abu Moussa, an argumentative but generally efficient guerrilla fighter who was sacked by Arafat in favour of Haj Ismael, the man who was to flee his post in 1978. Abu Moussa was put out to grass for four years as a member of the PLO's Beirut "operations room", a largely impotent talking shop for retired Palestinian tacticians which had no real power within the guerrilla movement.

Another officer frozen out by Arafat was Nimr Saleh, code-named Abu Saleh, who was a member of Fatah's central committee and at one time on the general command of Fatah's *Asrifa* (storm) guerrillas, an unimaginative and slightly pompous man who none the less regularly criticized the PLO's unpreparedness for war.

But Arafat's own appointments quickly proved disastrous. Labadi likes to set the scene for what followed. "The Palestinian movement at that time was like an Oxford student who never did any work," he says. "Instead of studying, he chased girls and got drunk. He never prepared for his examination. He would boast - just like Arafat boasted that he would 'defy Begin to invade' - but when the day of the examinations came in June, 1982, he failed the examination. He got only 30 per cent. Against the Israelis, that's not bad, but it's not good enough. We held out in Beirut for 90 days, but that's not enough."

The Israelis quickly captured Tyre and Sidon. Haj Ismael again left his post. Arafat's deputy Khalil Wazzir - a thoughtful and brave man who is the only Arafat loyalist still respected by the mutineers - said later that Haj Ismael had been cut off from his men while leading an attack on an Israeli tank unit on a hill east of Sidon. But most Fatah officers quickly came to the conclusion that Haj Ismael was guilty of cowardice.

Surrounded in Beirut, the guerrillas savagely argued among themselves. Abu Saleh, his own home in the Fakhani district destroyed in an air attack, complained more openly about Arafat's colleagues.

Arafat allegedly turned on Labadi one evening, exasperated by Labadi's constant harping on the need to stay in Beirut. "Never mind what I tell the foreign press about staying here," he said. "We have got to go."

In late September, after the PLO had left, Arafat sat down in Damascus and watched an uncut American television video showing the corpses in Sabra and Chatila. Those who know him well say that he realized then how he had negotiated with the wrong people for the wrong guarantees. It was too late.

The Syrians had already decided to

take over the PLO's guerrilla movement, thus becoming the undisputed vanguard of the Palestinian revolution. A year earlier, Abu Saleh had been sent to Damascus by Arafat on a goodwill visit. It had been an attempt to move Abu Saleh out of Beirut but it backfired because the Syrians swiftly realized how disenchanted Abu Saleh had become with the PLO leadership. He and President Assad had a secret six-hour meeting. And when Abu Saleh returned to Damascus in the autumn of last year, Colonel Ahmed Diab, the head of Syrian national security, offered him a diplomatic passport. Abu Saleh then arranged for Abu Khaled El-Amla, a Fatah student representative expelled by Arafat, to meet Diab. The mutiny was born.

Arafat knew what was going on in Damascus but his judgment appeared to desert him. Far away in Tunis, he decided that the remaining guerrillas in northern Lebanon needed a commander and appointed, of all people, Haj Ismael. There was uproar within Fatah, not least among colleagues of Abu Moussa, who was asked to accept an inferior position. Arafat then accused Abu Moussa of running away from a battle at Jezzine in 1982, a charge that appears to be untrue.

Abu Moussa was already consorting with the Syrians. He held a series of meetings in Damascus with Colonel Ali Duba, the head of Syrian army intelligence, and with Colonel Razi Kanaan, the head of Syria's military intelligence in Lebanon. As a result, General Ali Haider, the commander of Syria's special forces' army units sent a nine-truck convoy of guns and ammunition to Abu Moussa's camp in the Bekaa valley early this year. Arafat's picture was torn from the walls of the camp. The break was in the open.

Syria promised the mutineers Libyan and Iranian money as more of Arafat's former henchmen turned up in Damascus. Arafat had sent the increasingly argumentative Labadi into exile last year, ordering him to edit the PLO's glossy magazine *Palestine* in Brussels. Labadi joined Abu Saleh in Syria. "I was truly shocked," Arafat said when I asked about Labadi's defection.

Arafat appealed to Soviet President Andropov, who sent a friendly but puzzled letter in reply. The PLO leader made his greatest miscalculation. He went to Damascus and appealed to President Assad's brother Rifhat to quash the mutiny, assuming that Rifhat would take Saudi Arabia's advice and do so. Since the President of Syria had already given his blessing to the rebellion, Arafat was in effect trying to set brother against brother. Both Assad brothers hurriedly approved his expulsion.

In one last effort to quell the mutiny, Arafat carried out a purge of his own ranks, dispatching Haj Ismael into exile in Tunis. Again it was too late. Today, Abu Saleh sits in his new Damascus office, talking wistfully of the need to "purify" Fatah. Surrounded by Syrian troops in Tripoli, Arafat talks of betrayal, continually repeating that he is still the elected and legitimate leader of the PLO.

Abu Saleh and Abu Moussa are working on that, trying to win a majority in Fatah to unseat him. The last battle cannot be far away.

moreover... Miles Kington

I may not come back

New Orleans
When people out here learn I am British, they sometimes judge me and say they hear that British politics is brightening up these days. I would like to think this meant that the wit and wisdom of Neil Kinnock is infiltrating the American public awareness. But of course they mean what I fear they mean, the Cecil Parkinson affair - that typically British business in which everyone seems to have tried to do everything for the best and ended up making a hash of it, and which is the only piece of British news reported here at all.

The most serious mistake made in the whole sorry story was the newspaper's decision to give it coverage, and that is why I left Britain a week ago, determined to stay in exile until it was all over.

I arrived in Louisiana to find the local politicians going what politicians should really be doing: attempting to justify their reelection. At the top they are looking for a new governor; at the bottom, they are looking for new dog-catchers and assistant deputy postmen, and by American law all these posts and everything in between are reelectable. When the inhabitants vote tomorrow they will have to fill in a form as long as an income-tax return, but at least they will then be able to get rid of all the posters which have festooned this fair state almost as heavily as fringe posters swamp Edinburgh at Festival time, and you can't get worse than that.

Basically, these posters yield very little information about the candidates. They give the voters their surname, their best passport photograph, one of their nicknames (usually Bud) and the post they hope to be voted into. Political thought is limited to a slogan reading either "Stand by your man" or "Time for a change". After a while I found myself hoping for a variant, such as maybe: "Hi! I'm Cecil Parkinson! I'm new over here but very experienced!"

The battle to be governor is, for once, extremely interesting, especially as both candidates have been governors before. Ex-governor Edwards, a Democrat, was in office for two terms (eight years) and became very popular, having the kind of expansive personality that voters down here like and which tends to override any rumour of inefficiency or even corruption. Not being able to run for a third consecutive term he withdrew gracefully, but the ensuing scramble for his safe seat was so ungraceful and so clearly fixed that most of the Democrats did something unheard of: they rallied behind the Republican candidate, Trean, who became the first Republican governor since the Civil War.

Trean has been sober and industrious. He has also, unfortunately, presided over a collapse in the local oil industry so that the state finances, through no particular fault of his own, have slid from surplus to deficit. Now Edwards is fighting him to come back as governor and although the polls show them neck-and-neck, there seems to be a feeling that the colourful Edwards can squeeze in ahead of the unflamboyant Trean.

Louisiana, remember, is the state that had the legendary Huey Long as governor in the 1930s. Everyone knew he was a crook and everyone seemed to love him. Going farther back, it is significant that under French domination Louisiana was inefficient, corrupt and cheerful, while as a Spanish possession it was very well run indeed in a quiet sort of way. What is significant about this is that the Spanish history is always played down, and that the French are given credit for almost everything the Spaniards did.

So have a look at the election result, come Sunday or Monday, and see whether Louisiana has gone back to its old colourful ways. Assuming, of course, that Mr Parkinson is not still dominating the headlines and crowding out the real news. If he has been relegated to yesterday's news, then I shall be able to come back. The trouble is out here that no British news ever gets through and I may be here for life. Actually, I'm not sure I'd mind that very much.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 181)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- ACROSS: 1 Ransomed power (7) 2 Slightly drunk (5) 3 Hair-raiser (3) 4 Yspright (13) 5 Supreme sovereign (7) 6 Examinations order (6,7) 7 In the midst of (5) 8 Promote 9 Intensively (4) 10 Rustle (7) 11 Transglobal (5,3,5) 12 Thoroughgoing (7) 13 Rouse (4) 14 Question intensely (5) 15 Bell tongue (7) 16 Scrooge's receptacle (3) 17 Because Alps mountain (5) 18 Fill to capacity (7)
- DOWN: 1 Cooker (4) 2 Slightly drunk (5) 3 Yspright (13) 4 Delta (5) 5 Examinations order (6,7) 6 Lure drawer (7) 7 King's killer (8) 8 Halt Parliament (8) 9 Suspense (7) 10 Needle (5) 11 Teeth Greek letter (5) 12 Let loose (4)
- SOLUTION TO No 180
ACROSS: 1 Pedant 2 Tyrant 3 Era 4 Mohon 5 Boide 6 Reef 7 Broad 8 bin 9 Stock Exchange 10 Tug away 11 Orgy 12 Ploater 13 Antial 14 Ton 15 Deputy 16 Candy
DOWN: 1 Slope 2 Archer 3 Tumbler 4 Table 5 Rat 6 Nodding 7 Decouman 8 Trolls 9 Cayan 10 Witty 11 Grand 12 Car

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مركزنا من الامارات

Echoes of laughter

FIRST PERSON

by Gay Search

It's a bizarre experience, seeing a chunk of your life dramatized on stage, partly reminded of the reality, and partly caught up in the fiction created from it. Hugh Whitmore's play *Pack of Lies* (which opens at the Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue on Wednesday) is based on events in autumn 1960 when MI5 agents spent more than two months in our house, watching Soviet spies Peter and Helen Kroger, who were later sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment.

During the five years they had lived opposite, the Krogers had become friends - Helen popped in to see my mother practically every day - and when Jim Skardon of MI5 first came to talk to my parents their name was not mentioned. He was, he said, interested in a man who spent weekends in the area, and showed them a photograph (of Gordon Lonsdale, otherwise Conon Molody of the KGB as it turned out), but my parents hadn't seen him. MI5 had not been able to discover where this man was going and, since our house overlooked the end of the alleyway he used, they asked if they could station agents in the house for a couple of days.

On the first Sunday, my mother was looking out of the kitchen window when she saw the man in the photograph come out of the Krogers' front door, hurry down the path and disappear into the alleyway. The agents stayed on; my brother and I, then 17 and 15, were told that they were police of sorts, that we weren't to say a word about them to anyone, but we were not told who they were watching. My mother, on the other hand, had to go on seeing Helen almost every day, pretending nothing was wrong.

There were close shaves. One of the girls, in her haste to hide when she saw Helen coming, left her handbag on the kitchen floor. My mother didn't spot it until Helen was already in the room, then picked it up and flung it into a cupboard saying: "That daughter of mine never puts anything away".

With hindsight, what she did during those nine weeks was extraordinary. She was forced to take on a highly trained, experienced professional at her own deceitful game, and won. Once it was all over, it remained a source of great sadness. She never went to sleep without thinking about Helen in Holloway.

I believe now that it shortened her life. She died of a heart attack 13 years ago at the age of 63. For years, I thought it was just bad luck. After all, MI5 didn't know that first day that Lonsdale's contacts would turn out to be the Krogers. But the last year, Nigel West revealed in his book *A Matter of Trust 1945-1972*, that when they approached my parents, they had known for several weeks exactly where Lonsdale was going.

My father was remarkably sanguine about it - "What else would you have expected them to do?" he said - but I was very angry and bitter at the stress and misery they had cynically subjected my mother to. Yes, I understand about the national interest, and I know how much damage the Portland spy ring did to our defences, but then what Hugh Whitmore calls "hardcore government" steamrollers the people you love, it's impossible to feel anything else.



Annetta Hoffning: responding to a demand

illustrations for Collette's libretto for the opera *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, his radio and Oxford Union debates were all the product of the last nine years or so of his life.

For the first time too, he sat down and learned to read music. He took up the tuba and became accomplished enough to play professionally.

While she was bringing up Benedict (now 28 and a prodigious classical trumpeter) and Emily (a gifted sculptress working in her own studio in Wapping) Annetta Hoffning was too busy to write off their life together. "Being a single parent can sometimes be easier. There is no conflict when the major decisions have to be made."

She planned to write a biography of Gerard for publication in 1979, the twentieth anniversary of his death. But next year's anniversary - the twenty-fifth - now seems certain to come and go without the promised book.

She is honest enough to say she is daunted by the prospect of "trying to find words to put Gerard across and what he was like to people. It is actually very difficult to convey how beloved, if impossible - people found him."

Annetta feels that she must add something about the serious side of Gerard's nature. Although born Jewish, he became a Quaker during his marriage "because he felt a need for some form of worship and the silence of the Meeting, as well as the cause of non-violence, suited him."

Gerard was also for a time a prison visitor and would frequently bring ex-inmates of Pentonville back to the house. One convict, on hearing of his mother, remarked: "When my own mother died I didn't feel like this."

Mrs Hoffning is nourished by the great weight of laughter that is her husband's legacy: "Sitting quietly behind my bookshelf at various exhibitions I've relished the reactions of visitors who've plainly never heard of Hoffning before. Unlike the expectant delight of those who bound up the stairs having travelled three and half thousand miles to view Hoffning, the uninitiated stare, bemused, at the first Hoffning frame, move on quite po-faced, then suddenly, around the third frame, realize what they're seeing and return with heaving shoulders to the start. It's my delight to share in such rare, spontaneous laughter."

Next Sunday, Annetta Hoffning will give a slide-illustrated talk on her husband's life and work at 3pm at the Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Square, London (387 9629).

Gerard Hoffning died in 1959. His humour lives on thanks to the efforts of his widow.

Madeleine Kingsley meets Annetta Hoffning

Gerard Hoffning's sudden death from a brain haemorrhage in 1959 deprived his cult following of a cartoonist, a broadcasting humorist and the musician-extraordinaire whose Festival Hall extravaganzas (featuring solos for vacuum cleaner and the A flat foghorn) cocked an eccentric snook at classical pomposity.

Annetta Hoffning also lost a husband of only 34, the father of three-year-old Ben and baby Emily. Looking back now, she says her seven-year marriage was "perhaps always too chuffed to last". It would be understandable if like Queen Victoria, Annetta Hoffning had embraced widowhood as an institution of black weeds and if only bitterness: "But I'd hate people to think I'm one of those wives of the late famous who never let go or move forward," she says.

"Certainly I've taken charge of my husband's work - it would have been a great loss for everyone if the archive against losing a husband and forgotten. But I've never thought to promote a Hoffning industry as such. I've simply responded to the demand which far from dwindling actually seems to be increasing each year, as new generations discover Gerard. Finding myself out of the blue in a shattering situation which no one could change - you can't argue against losing a husband and what luckier person could I have been in the world than to have such marvellous material to earn my living with for 25 years?"



Hoffnung... by Hoffning

Annetta Hoffning's role as co-producer and director (with Tom Bergman, her friend and fellow Hoffning enthusiast) of the Hoffning gala concerts, is by no means a mere paper acknowledgment. Following her first timpanist's triumph with a seven-foot bass drum at the original concert a year before Gerard's death, Annetta Hoffning appeared in this summer's South Bank performance as a befuddled and black-stocked chambermaid, a glorified prop girl who brought on melodious beer bottles and musical garden hose as required.

Although she insists that she was always the non-creative Hoffning partner, she has inspired such jokes in the Hoffning tradition as the coughing stooge in the auditorium who is publicly reproved by the conductor, and the bevy of small children who burst out of a grand piano to sing.

Mrs Hoffning was also responsible for this summer season's

premiere of a "romantic" work by Wilfrid Joseph which her husband had always planned to commission. Joseph's "Concerto d'Amore" presents the predicament of two temperamental violinists booked, by some ghastly blunder, to perform the same solo piece. A male and female musician eventually agree to play in turns, but gradually become enamoured of one another's playing and persons, exchanging addresses and embraces over the final *rallentando*.

This autumn Annetta Hoffning has overseen the Hoffning cartoon exhibition in the Durham Light Infantry Museum, and the reissue by Souvenir Press of Hoffning's half dozen musical cartoon books, which have, she points out with justifiable pride, never been out of print for 30 years. On Boxing Day she begins a two-month tour taking in Houston, Pasadena, Frankfurt and Paris.

Any material the post may bring an order for 8,000 Hoffning greeting cards from New York's Kennedy Centre "which means I spend the next three days painstakingly counting them out, zipping down to the supermarket for a likely cardboard box and driving the precious package down to the freight office at Heathrow airport."

The Hoffning headquarters is now a pink-washed house in Hampstead village where the sitting room has a place for the famous brass foghorn ("We bought it on holiday in Bognor Regis, there's a good throwaway line for you"), a whimsical bronze statue representing Gerard as a cherubic toddler and a Chagall which is the first picture the Hoffnings bought. A garage at the bottom of the garden serves as a repository for 14 crates of Hoffning's drawings.

The house is light and decorative - a far cry, says Annetta Hoffning, from the ponderously Edwardian house in the garden suburb on the other side of Hampstead Heath, which Gerard inherited from his German mother, and where the young couple lived. There, Gerard once picked up his chery-cheeked housekeeper, Maria, and held her out of the window by way of a prank punishment for burning his dinner.

Annetta Hoffning, now in her late 50s, looks slim and serene in tight grey cords, a fluffy mohair cardigan and pink slippers. Her silver hair is cropped boyishly and her face is remarkably unlined for one who smiles so often.

Her terribly happy but culturally "nothing" childhood in Folkestone did little, she says, to prepare her for the job of globe-trotting custodian of Gerard's memory. "If not for the war," she says, "it's quite possible I might have married a south coast bank clerk." Instead she was evacuated to school in Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, and the Royal Marine Wrens, then after the war exchanged that uniform for the fawn frock, gloves and monogrammed felt bowler of the Norland nanny.

As former nanny to the children of cartoonist Roland Emmett, Annetta (then Nurse Bennett) was invited back to dinner and there met Gerard Hoffning: "The Emmetts had a shrewd idea we might hit it off - how right they were."

Annetta Hoffning would not say so, but she was clearly responsible for Gerard's blossoming into an immensely prolific and varied artist. The little books, the concerts, his

are short, squash is played at a violent pace for up to 40 minutes. A faulty heart rhythm, either with or without an obstruction of a coronary artery, is a frequent cause of death. It was therefore worrying that one third of the players developed arrhythmias while playing, and about the same number in the first 30 minutes after the game. The research workers suggest that the vigorous nature of squash may cause biochemical changes in the blood which encourage arrhythmias.

Heartitch Few physicians would have arrived at the diagnosis in a case reported in *Medical News*, of a man who had a recurrently itchy nose. He was suffering from angina.

The classic story of angina is of a gripping, or heavy, pain behind the breastbone, radiating to the neck and jaw, after exercise or emotion. However, anginal pain is frequently not typical; it can, and often does, come on at rest; it can be felt on either side of the chest or in the back; it can simulate toothache, indigestion, or cause pains in the hands.

A careful history, a high level of suspicion and modern equipment are needed to make a diagnosis. Dr Robert Reichstein and Dr William Stein needed all three when they saw a 60-year-old New York man who complained that the bridge of his nose itched when he walked quickly or made love. The itching disappeared when he rested. As simple measures failed to help, the doctors arranged an exercise electrocardiogram. It showed a clear relationship between the itch and physical activity. After a coronary bypass operation the patient no longer had to scratch his nose or pause at inopportune moments.

Softening up In America the US Department of Health and Human Services, and in Britain a private health insurance firm working with a woman's magazine, have launched a campaign to educate the public about osteoporosis, the softening process which occurs in bones in both sexes from middle age.

One woman in four over the age of 65 has suffered a fracture due to osteoporosis. The production of oestrogen, which slows down normal bone loss and helps calcium absorption, declines at the menopause.

The spine is also weakened so that vertebral bones become compressed, giving rise to the bent stoop of old age. Sometimes minimal strain causes vertebrae to collapse, a crush fracture.

Synthetic male and thyroid hormones have been used in treatment, but these tend to stabilize the condition rather than increase bone mass. Calcium and fluoride medication offers hope of reversing the situation, but even at the correct dose, side effects can be unpleasant. As treatment is difficult doctors emphasize the need for prevention. Women should see their doctors to discuss hormone therapy to replace the oestrogen. As physical activity stimulates bone production, both sexes should exercise regularly.

A minor degree of malnutrition in the elderly is common. Recent research work has shown that many women have a grossly inadequate calcium intake, with too little dairy produce and vitamin D. They may also suffer from a lack of fresh green vegetables and protein. Excessive alcohol should be avoided.

Dr Thomas Stuttford
Medical Correspondent

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Putting the baby first

Although general practitioners are frequently asked if sexual intercourse can safely continue throughout pregnancy, the standard textbooks recommend it should not take place in the final six weeks in case it precipitates labour or introduces infection. Where there is an increased risk of miscarriage, abstinence for the whole of pregnancy is advised. The medical newspaper *Hospital Doctor*, has recently reviewed three research projects in an attempt to assess the value of this standard teaching.

In 1979 an article in *The Lancet* confirmed traditional views, but only 70 London women were investigated. There was a clear association between a poor condition of the baby at birth and sexual intercourse in the last month of pregnancy. A very much more comprehensive study from Israel, also published in *The Lancet*, was based on interviews with 10,000 women; in uncomplicated pregnancies these appeared to be no danger to either mother or baby.

The third paper analysed, North Carolina, showed that whatever their doctors' advice, two-thirds of women stop intercourse before the final month.

As a result of the Israel study, most doctors now agree intercourse is safe in normal pregnancies.

Biting back Because of increased resistance by malaria to drugs, and mosquitoes to insecticides, the disease, which was well controlled in the mid-1960s, is again becoming a threat to the health of 1,900 million people who live in malarial zones, and to travellers.

Two new anti-malaria drugs are being developed. One, mefloquine, has been researched at the Walter Reed Army Institute in Washington. The other is derived from two of the active components of quinghao, a Chinese herb which has been used to treat malaria for 2,000 years.

People intending to visit malarial zones should ask their doctors which drugs are still useful in the area concerned, and what dose they should take. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in Keppel Street is very helpful to those whose general practitioners are out of touch with the present situation.

Squash alert

Tens of thousands of middle-aged workers in sedentary occupations risk heart trouble by playing an occasional vigorous game of squash.

Dr Robin Norcote, research fellow in cardiology at Glasgow University, has studied 50 cases of sudden death on squash courts, recorded in the press since 1977. There are probably many more unreported. Dr Norcote, Dr D. Ballantyne and their team investigated heart performance after playing squash in 21 volunteers with an average age of 33. Their research, reported in *Pulse*, showed that the game exerts a 20 per cent greater workload on the heart than a rally at tennis and that whereas tennis rallies

Back to school for the young in mind

Joe Ryan had agreed to pick me up from Haswell station. He didn't like the new hatched-back. They'd always had second-hand cars in the past, to fit his four boys in, but they'd bought a new one because it wouldn't need so much repairing - although he was doing car maintenance at evening classes - and it had to be a hatchback to carry manure for the allotment he'd inherited from his wife on his retirement.

A sort of div what used to be her labour," he explained. "Some things I'm not allowed to do, such as the washing up, because I don't do it properly, but I can dry, and clean the windows from the outside and polish the floor. We sorted out which we were best at."

He talks cheerfully, with a bit of overcompensatory bluster to make a stranger feel at home. At 61, a tallish, lightly built man with grey hairs only just in the majority, he took an early retirement two years ago from the Post Office, where he'd worked since joining the Civil Service in Liverpool at 16. He was a personnel manager, responsible, ironically, for preparing staff for retirement.

"We like them to start planning about five years in advance," he said, unconscious of the still habitual use of "we" and the present tense. "For some people, men especially, it can be a very traumatic experience. If they're not prepared for it, some of them can just give up and die, you know. We advise them how best to invest their money, what clubs they can join, how to claim their entitlements - rebates, benefits, travel cards and such like. We have an Old Collegians' Association where they meet and we get retired members to come back and speak."

So at least he'd been prepared for his own retirement. "Well actually, I didn't think much

There are three stages of life: childhood, adult working life and retirement. Children grow up faster, working lives are cut by unemployment, redundancy and early retirement, and so the third age becomes longer. People in this time of life are still energetic and eager to remain involved in the outside world, not thrown onto the scrap heap. How to pass another possible 20 or 30 years without an organized role in life has become one of the major concerns of the 1980s. In London, one solution is gradually emerging, an organization conceived and run by retired people called the University of the Third Age.

about it until it happened," he said. Early retirement had given the Ryans an additional redundancy payment which I assumed had been wisely invested. But no. It was a point on which Mrs Ryan took pleasure in setting me straight. "We went to Hawaii," she said firmly. "I made sure. All down the West Coast, San Francisco, Los Angeles..."

What makes Anne and Joe Ryan different from thousands of other retired British couples is that they have found an outlet for their energies which has solved, to a large extent, the problem of how to cope with the next 15 or 20 years of retirement.

The Ryans are two of the founder members of USA the University of the Third Age in London which, after two trial terms, comes into full operation this autumn. It offers courses of study and activities to retired people and those out of work and is organized and administered by the members themselves.

Anne Ryan read about a proposed USA last year, in a copy of *Options* magazine, and she and Joe volunteered to join a group of 70 other interested retired people for a study week at Trinity College, Cambridge. The idea of USA is based on the *Université de la Troisième Age*, which runs successfully throughout France. "But we're not the Open University," Anne explained. "What we wanted to avoid was a formal teacher-pupil relationship - I think we're all a bit too old for that - and any of the competitiveness that comes with exams. We don't have degrees or diplomas.

We just wanted there to be the opportunity for anyone to be able to come along and have the chance to find out more about something they were interested in, with other people."

During their week in Cambridge, they chose from seven self-taught courses - Anne did French; Joe did local history. Group members prepared a paper and read it to the rest of the group. "It all sounds a bit daunting, I know," said Joe. "There were all levels of competence and some people were initially very shy. But everyone had something to add, something to teach the others. One or two were



Joe and Anne Ryan: an outlet for energy

very knowledgeable and were able to guide the rest of us along."

At the end of the successful week, the Cambridge group decided to set up an official branch of USA - which left the Ryans with a problem. It would be too expensive and tiring to travel to Cambridge every week. What they needed was something nearer home.

They contacted Brian Groombridge, head of Extra Mural studies at University College, London. He recruited the Ryans, and it was decided to run a pilot scheme of four subjects - French, English literature, art and art history.

Joe and Anne Ryan are bursting with enthusiasm. "It's not just the learning," said Joe. "We've made a whole new set of friends, a new social life. We're setting up exchange groups with the French in Lyons and Grenoble, and perhaps with the USA. We're arranging special membership of cultural societies - the whole thing is growing like mad."

Anne said she thought the most important function of USA was that "it gives you something to get up for. You've got to brush your teeth, comb your hair, smarten yourself up, get out of the house and open your mouth. Some people talk to no one but the milkman from one week to the next."

which expanded into eight in the second term as interest grew.

The members divided the administrative workload among themselves to save funds. "Two or three of us could type, one of two had been office managers. Joe and I licked stamps and answered the telephone," said Mrs Ryan. They also took on the publicity and organized the course timetable for more than 270 applicants.

The London branch of USA encourages members to take other courses through UEA, at a nominal charge or for free. Birkbeck College has given USA premises at a peppercorn rent; the Courtauld Institute is organizing a series of lectures; North London Polytechnic has released Dr Sidney Jones, head of Educational Studies, for a year to administer the courses.

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Liz Jobey
Membership fees are £4 per person, £7 for two people living at the same address and £1 for those on supplementary benefit. For application forms, write to Sidney Jones, USA London, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 3DQ, or telephone 636 8000, extension 3857.

THE TIMES Tomorrow

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THE TIMES DIARY

Open verdict

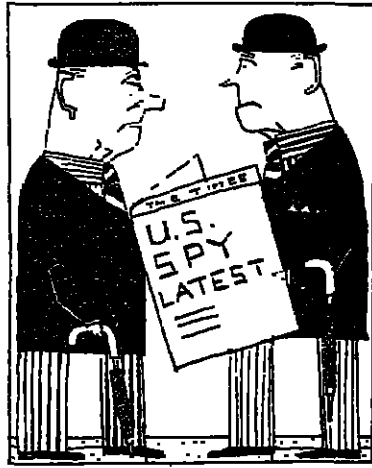
Doctrinal uncertainty swept the corridors of power in the Socialist Republic of Islington yesterday when news broke of the bloody conflict in Grenada. The north London borough, which is ideologically twinned with the Caribbean island's capital of St George's, was initially unsure whether developments were good or bad. So when asked her views, Margaret Hodges, leader of the council, decided that the best form of defence was attack. She immediately lambasted the Conservative-controlled Margate council, which is twinned with Yalta, for not condemning the shooting down of the Korean airliner, Islington's twinning arrangement, she emphasized, involved giving practical help to Grenada, such as shipments of old library books and second-hand dusters.

Heal thyself

Lord Young of Dartington, the man who conceived the Consumers' Association, the National Extension College and other good things, tells me he is about to deliver another brainchild - an offer to sick people by the College of Health, in return for a £10 subscription, of courses in health education, the structure of the NHS and patients' rights. Accompanying this worthy scheme will be the launch of a weekly health magazine, *Self Health*, covering everything from diets to alternative medicine. "I feel we are cashing in on something big", Lord Young enthused.

Ursula Andress, immortalized on film as a starlet with a waifish, has emerged on the other side of the camera. She spent a week on the photographers' pit at the Paris collections working for an Italian magazine and found herself more the object of attention than the models on the catwalk. She took a dim view of the Paparazzi interruptions - until one of them showed her how to change a film.

BARRY FANTONI



"Funny, I don't remember him at Cambridge"

Forever Young

Canon Edwin Young has retired after 10 years as chaplain of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy and the Royal Victorian Order. The 80-year-old couples who were married by him have been invited to his retirement party at the hotel next week. They will miss him; so devoted was he to his couples that he sent every one anniversary and Christmas cards during his tenure, and all were invited to St Valentine's Day service and reception annually. Canon Young is poised for a second career as a "pre-dinner" speaker, famed as he is for his witty, bespoken graces, and has an autobiography in the works.

Pas de ballet

Left-wing MP Tony Banks' plan to irritate the Government and balletomane at one fell swoop by bringing over the Bolshoi Ballet for performance exclusively for the proletariat has fallen through. Banks, chairman of the GLC's arts and recreation committee, planned to sell tickets to an audience not normally seen at such occasions, through organizations such as housing and pensioners' associations. But the trip, opposed by Downing Street, has been cancelled. "It became too much of a hot potato," said one involved in the talks.

Literary package

Jorge Luis Borges, everybody's favourite Argie, is guest of honour on Frank Delaney's BBC 2 chat-show to be broadcast on Monday; but his chosen topic is a fair and equal basis to women in politics. Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, who did more than any other prime minister to promote women to important political posts, according to the group, will be on hand when the award is presented at the Commons on November 14. Isaacs should be doubly pleased; not only has he a new gang for the mantelpiece but the comfort of knowing the group has been watching his controversial channel. It all adds to the ratings.

Channel 4 is acquiring admirers. The 300 Group, which is pressing for more women in Parliament and elsewhere, has awarded Jeremy Isaacs and his current affairs head, Liz Forgan, an accolade "for consistently giving significant coverage on a fair and equal basis to women in politics". Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, who did more than any other prime minister to promote women to important political posts, according to the group, will be on hand when the award is presented at the Commons on November 14. Isaacs should be doubly pleased; not only has he a new gang for the mantelpiece but the comfort of knowing the group has been watching his controversial channel. It all adds to the ratings.

The Mirror: Labour's love lost?

Much speculation over the proposed sale of the *Daily Mirror* has centred on the identity of the chairman of the new company. Sir Alex Jarratt, the chairman of Reed International, the owners, has said it would be someone acceptable to both the City and the Labour movement, and today, Clive Thornton, head of the Abbey National Building Society, is expected to be presented as the new chairman. But after the sale of Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) the job could be irrelevant. The parent group has decided, unlike Trafalgar House when it demerged Express Newspapers, to retain no financial interest in its subsidiary which might prevent a future takeover. When the company makes its Stock Exchange debut, a new chairman acting as chaperon will be unable to fight off the attentions of corporate suitors, not all of whom will have honourable intentions. In other words, whoever the new chairman and whatever the constitution of his board, a takeover bid would be perfectly possible from a company which might take the papers smartly to the right. The only sign so far of disquiet has been informal discussions between Neil Kinnock and senior editorial figures at the paper. A related letter expressing concern from a member of Labour's National Executive has also been despatched. It is gradually dawning on Labour leaders that the

notion could be potentially dangerous. The first point at issue is whether Labour really considers the *Mirror's* fragile allegiance important. If so, and one supposes this to be the case, what can be done to ensure its continued support? There are two ways the company, as currently envisaged, may be protected from an alien political infection. The first - and the most important, according to Leslie Carpenter, chief executive of Reed International - is the weight of opinion among *Mirror* staff. But it is not at all certain that the unions at the paper would take industrial action to protect the paper's traditions. How many of its employees are so committed to Labour that they would strike in a political cause? Senior journalists who objected to a new proprietor with right-wing ideas could find themselves emasculated or be golden hand-shaked to the door. The second possibility would be for the unions to take a stake in the new company. This idea has attracted some support, but it could be impracticable. For a start, the new MGN is likely to have a price tag of more than £100m and a controlling interest would therefore cost more than £50m. Even an appreciable strategic stake of between 5 and 10 per cent would be expensive. And where

would the cash come from? Arthur Scargill has already suggested that the National Coal Board pension fund, on which the National Union of Mineworkers has a 50 per cent representation, should invest in the company. It might occur to other union leaders that other pension funds with strong trade union investment could follow suit. But Mr Scargill's relationship with the NCB fund is known to be at best brittle and trustees will balk at taking a shareholding which could be interpreted as politically motivated. Any suggestion that the finance could come from unions' general funds will find little support among executives seeing membership dwindle and cash evaporate. One hope, of course, would be that any eventual predator would take the form of a socialist millionaire. A rare breed; possibly extinct. The most likely candidate must automatically be Robert Maxwell, the publisher. Clearly the subject will be raised at the next general council meeting of the TUC. One of its tasks will be to appoint a committee to look at the financial viability of a TUC newspaper at a cost of £7m. The attractions of such a venture, however slight, are likely to be greater than the accumulation of a shareholding in a company whose policies it will be unable to influence.

One of the answers to Labour's professed need to retain a foothold in Fleet Street is to start an immediate campaign to build safeguards into the constitution of the floated company, before its Stock Exchange debut. One such guarantee would be for voting shares to be held in trust. Thus only non-voting stock could be bought, which in turn would be of interest only to investors and not to predators. However, if Mr Kinnock deploys this argument at any future meeting with the Reed board, he will be told that investors will pay less for non-voting stock and that they would receive less for the flotation. Reed International, it will be said, is not a charity. The company has been prepared to hunt for an acceptable chairman, and it will be prepared to make sure that, in the first instance, anyway, shareholdings are spread thinly - but it will not be prepared to see its subsidiary undervalued. Reed points out that any right-wing capitalist seeking to buy the *Mirror* would find his ambitions under scrutiny by the Monopolies Commission, whose brief is to "protect the public interest". Whether political as well as commercial monopoly would be considered sufficient reason to block the bid is another matter. Barrie Clement

Lawrence Freedman on the battlefield numbers game

Short-range steps towards peace

Four years ago the first volleys were being exchanged in what has turned out to be the most intense debate on nuclear weapons since the Second World War. A group of Nato planners was then reported to be proposing the introduction of new US cruise and Pershing missiles into Europe. Soon President Brezhnev weighed in with the first of many combined Soviet offers and threats designed to stop the programme. Nevertheless, after a couple of months of hectic political activity Nato agreed, in December 1979, to endorse the missile proposal. Four years later, the preparations are almost completed and the missiles will soon be arriving.

The same group of Nato planners, known as the High-Level Group, is now completing a report on another set of US nuclear weapons in Europe. These are short-range artillery shells, gravity bombs, offensive and defensive missiles and even mines. Unlike cruise missiles, which can attack Soviet territory, they are designed for use against fairly close military targets on, or just behind, the battlefield.

There are many similarities with the earlier situation. A group of expert officials is working without any publicity on politically-loaded proposals for its masters, at a time when increased Soviet activity in comparable missiles is reported. Many proposals are being put forward in the Pentagon for the modernization of Nato's stockpile. Moreover, short-range weapons are potentially more controversial than long-range because they are more numerous, and more likely to involve use on Nato territory; and the rationale behind them is much more questionable. They have long been criticized for creating the illusion of a nuclear military option, able for example to halt a tank invasion, while in reality any use would merely start off full-blooded nuclear exchanges earlier than would have otherwise been necessary. To use them effectively would require early authorization to "go nuclear", but Nato's consultative procedures, quite properly ensure that would be delayed before any request for use were answered. The last time, Nato tried to improve its short-range arsenal in 1978 with the "neutron bomb", or the "enhanced radiation weapon" as it is known in Nato jargon. So great was the furore then that President Carter decided to hold back production. Not surprisingly after all that they have been through with the cruise missile debate, Nato leaders are reluctant to agree to yet more weapons projects. Apart from anything else, these are the sort of



nuclear weapons operated by European forces under dual-key arrangements. So the political issue would not simply be whether to permit their presence with US forces but whether to buy any new systems. For this reason, the improvements agreed may, despite the Pentagon's urgings, be largely incremental - better safety features, command and control, and possibly longer range. Most significant of all, the principal change will probably be to reduce the Nato stockpile by as much as one third - from a stockpile of 6,000 weapons to 4,000 - mainly

by cutting out weapons considered unimportant. Such a move will surprise and even encourage those who believe that the alliance is capable only of adding to its arsenal and that it can never cut back. To long-standing critics of these weapons it at least represents a move in the right direction. What difference will it make in practice? Opponents of the cuts contend that it is unwise to give up any capability when the Soviet Union is adding to its nuclear forces. They claim that there is no need now to offer the short-range weapons as a

sort of political sacrifice for the cruise and Pershing missiles, because after the British and West German elections the success of the long-range programme is reasonably assured. Any cuts now should be in return for a notable improvement in conventional forces or in elements of the battlefield nuclear arsenal that will remain. Against this, it is pointed out that Nato's past promises obligate it to remove a certain number of weapons, on a one-for-one basis, as the cruise and Pershing missiles arrive. For reductions beyond the 572 such missiles proposed, it is hopeless to rely on arms control areas in which to negotiate. East and West stockpiles are not at all comparable, the distinction between nuclear and conventional capabilities are rarely clear-cut, and verification may be impossible. So all Nato can do is look hard at its stockpile and make a strategic judgment on what it really needs. It is hard to find anyone who believes that the number of weapons is anything but excessive. In practice, the proposed reductions will not make much difference. Nato's nuclear options, the only systems to be removed will be Nike-Hercules air defence missiles and atomic mines, neither of which is considered usable. Systems such as artillery pieces capable of taking nuclear weapons are unlikely to be decreased in number, to ensure that the widest number of Nato countries can in principle be involved in nuclear operations. All that will happen is that there will be less nuclear ammunition to pass around. So the proposed reductions are really radical only when compared with past practice. For Nato planners they at least provide a policy on quality, distribution and type in an area where previously only numbers were seen to matter. They allow the alliance to improve its public image, and create a valuable precedent for unilateral cuts. They break a strange sort of symbolism surrounding the stockpile level which used to be taken, in the absence of any more compelling rationale, as a statement of the degree of US commitment to the defence of Europe. And they point Nato in a direction that has been advocated by many defence experts as well as arms controllers - towards lessening Nato's dependence on nuclear threats.

If at the end of this month the alliance decides to move in this direction it may not be a large step, for mankind but it would still be quite a big one for Nato. The author is Professor of War Studies at King's College, London.



Princess Diana, Grocho Marx, Christine Keeler, Harold Macmillan, Lord Longford, Hedy Lamarr, Asquith, Humphrey Lyttleton

Surprising sprigs on the family tree

I didn't either, but the conclusion is inescapable. The Prime Minister is related to the Queen. Close observers of the former assume from her demeanour and carriage that she has secretly known this all the time. The relationship, it must be said, is distant - as it is said to be every Tuesday evening at the regular weekly audience - and the blood test has yet to be invented which would prove the link. Nevertheless there is a thread, more tortuous even than Ariadne's ball of string in the Labyrinth, but unbroken, provided you step outside the normal rules of genealogy and are prepared to build bridges across brothers-in-law and second marriages. For establishing the link between Queen Mary, the Shah of Iran, Unity Mitford, Richard Burton, Senator Edward Kennedy, Anna Ford, Marilyn Monroe, George Melly, Dylan Thomas, Vita Sackville-West, the pardoned Jimmy Boyle, Tony Benn, Frank Sinatra, and Nigel Dempster?

Quite frankly, neither did I. Did you also know that the Princess of Wales was related to Dr Stephen Ward, Lord Lucan, Neville Chamberlain, the editors of *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and *The Observer*, Max Hastings, Hughie Green, Dirk Bogarde, Brigitte Bardot, Patty Hearst, Clark Gable, Croucho Marx, the Shah of Iran, Unity Mitford, Richard Burton, Senator Edward Kennedy, Anna Ford, Marilyn Monroe, George Melly, Dylan Thomas, Vita Sackville-West, the pardoned Jimmy Boyle, Tony Benn, Frank Sinatra, and Nigel Dempster?

else whose name appears therein, and has drawn up a family tree of the famous and the almost well-known, published this week as *The Gossip Family Handbook*. Mr Barrow is impeccably qualified to undertake such a task. His wife is the second cousin of the brother-in-law of Miss Sara Keays, who has recently been making the newspapers. Who would have imagined that Richard Ingram, the editor of *Private Eye*, is related to Sir James Goldsmith? Or Jack Profumo to Harold Macmillan? Or Lord Longford to Hedy Lamarr, the first actress ever to grace the silver screen with nakedness? Or Lady Docker to Graham Greene? Or Denis Thatcher to his stage persona, John Wells? Or Anthony Blunt to Prokofiev? Pointless, frequently bloodless, but fun. It is all a good deal more entertaining than *Burke and Debrett*, if less scrupulously atten-

tive to the descent of blood. Traditional genealogy, which would quickly establish a direct blood-connection between, for example, Viscount Whitelaw and Disraeli, goes backwards. Only by going sideways can Mr Barrow establish a link between Sir John Gielgud and Jane Fonda, Herbert Asquith and Humphrey Lyttleton. I suppose he could ultimately join us all up, given the time and a large enough sheet of paper. The next edition will be even better. Owing to a recent marriage undertaken by the modestly well-connected Mr Reginald Bosanquet and too late for inclusion, the identity of the former newspaper's new wife's first husband's first wife means, according to Mr Barrow, that the Queen, Mrs Thatcher, Lord Longford, Harold Macmillan, Captain Mark Phillips, Sir John Betjeman, Alistair Cooke, David Dimbleby, the previous Archbishop of Canterbury but one, and every other name on Mr Barrow's Tree of High Life, are all related to Miss Christine Keeler. They always said she had class, that girl. Alan Hamilton *Hamish Hamilton, £6.95.

David Watt

A Falkland chance too good to miss

Buenos Aires In a week's time, Argentina has its first election for nearly a decade. To anyone interested in politics it is a fascinating struggle in its own right: low-keyed by Latin American standards but grim and likely to be very close. To the British observer, however, the overwhelming question is whether democracy is going to produce a government any more likely to settle the Falklands question on reasonable terms than the bitter and embattled military regime now bowing out. The answer, like almost everything else in Argentina, is enveloped in clouds of rhetoric and emotion. After last year's defeat, Las Malvinas is more than ever the most obsessive issue of national honour. Jorge Luis Borges's remark that the dispute was like two bald men fighting over a comb is no more welcome in Buenos Aires than it is in Downing Street. Mrs Thatcher is the figure (outside Argentina) that everyone most likes to hate. And even the arrival of as inoffensive a person as myself in Buenos Aires has been denounced by Mrs Thatcher as "the Veterans of the Malvinas" and others as grossly insulting. Nevertheless the answer is still a qualified yes. It is clear from the conversations of their closest advisers and from the logic of events that each of the principal contenders for the presidency - Italo Luder, the Peronist front-runner, and Raul Alfonsín, the radical Party challenger - is beginning to look for a settlement of the Falklands dispute and, given any real encouragement from the British side, would approach discussions in a more realistic frame of mind than any Argentine government since the 1960s.

In the first place, the military junta is for the moment discredited and demoralized. It is regarded with a contempt that is open, complete and unpunished. The reasons for this collapse go beyond the war to today's economic shambles in particular, but there is no doubt that the war is generally considered an unmitigated disaster. All connected with it are in public disgrace. Nicanor Costa Mendez, Galtieri's Foreign Minister at the height of the crisis, for instance, has been unable to secure the backing of any party to run for the Senate or even the House of Deputies. The hindsight consensus even among people close to the junta is that the use of force was an error of principle which misjudged not just the British but other Latin American countries, the Americans and the Europeans; did untold damage internationally, and wrecked already shaky finances. Starting from this point the main political parties are now toying with conclusions. One prominent Peronist put it this way: "We have three possible courses of action. One is to do nothing - but public opinion will demand movement and all they have seen on the contrary is the British consolidating a huge base on our doorstep. That is a recipe for more foolishness, not now perhaps, but later on. The second possibility is to Malvinize our foreign policy altogether - to make everything dependent on the issue. This would mean more or less throwing in our lot with the Soviet Union and Castro and the non-aligned movement, perhaps reneging on our foreign debts. This, too, is foolishness, though there are some who want it. Very well, there is nothing left but to negotiate with the British and to mend our fences with the US and Europe."

In that case, would a new Argentine government be prepared to declare a formal end to the war? The answer, after a certain amount of legalistic prevarication, is that if Argentina declared peace, it would have no satisfactory ground for pressing governments to deny the British transit facilities to the Falklands. And since this is one of the main levers the Argentines have against Britain, they would be mad to throw it away without a *quid pro quo*. What would the *quid* be? Some gesture from the British that indicated they were not intending to build up a huge and permanent strategic base on the island as soon as communications were made easy for them to do so. Perhaps a reduction in size of the exclusion zone, it is suggested, would be a start. And what, Mrs Thatcher always scathingly asks, would negotiations be about? The Argentines reject the present British preference (assuming talks were started at all) for settling relatively harmless questions about commercial relations and the like first. They can foresee Mrs Thatcher pocketing the preliminary agreements and stringing them along for another 17 years on the sovereignty issue. So far as they are concerned this is the crux of the dispute and they insist on it absolutely. But the war has changed things to the extent that the party politicians and their advisers now seem ready to re-examine fairly long leaseback solutions on Hongkong lines, to envisage international guarantees for the islanders both before and after the "lease" expires and finally to fudge the question of whether talks can start at all without the pre-supposition of Argentine sovereignty - the point on which the discussions of 1982 finally broke down. Why, they ask, can we not embark on negotiations on the basis of the formula agreed to by British and Argentine officials in 1968 which said, in effect, that the UK would recognize Argentina's sovereignty but only when the British government had been satisfied that the islanders' interests were secured? The truthful reply is that a lot of blood-stained water has flowed beneath the bridge since then and Mrs Thatcher is not ready to go back to the pre-war position as if nothing had happened in the meantime. But the question is well worth thinking about, all the same. Time, after all, is not on the British side. And by that I do not just mean that pressure for negotiation from the US, our European partners and the UN, will become increasingly insistent or even that the cost of Fortress Falklands will continue to mount alarmingly. The point is that anyone surveying the scene here in Buenos Aires is bound to conclude that the establishment of this new government will provide a climate for negotiations that is unlikely to recur. With the appalling problem of the Argentine economy and the lack of any widespread Argentine predisposition in favour of democracy over dictatorial forms of government, the chances of either Luder or Alfonsín serving a full term without another military coup are probably no better than even. Nevertheless a settlement ratified by democratic processes is more likely to last from one regime to another than a military fiat; and a democratic government which settles the quarrel with the British is more likely to survive. If we could take a long view of our interests and those of the West, we should explore a precious opportunity without too much delay.

Philip Howard

Fact: fiction is not just ephemera

Daily newspapers seldom publish fiction, except by accident; and then the decent ones tend to publish a correction. It would be agreeable to have the space to publish a short story, or poem, or an extract from a novel every day. In practice the daily avalanche of news, criticism, comment, information, reader service and features leaves no room for serious fiction. (One could write a tendentious monograph demonstrating that news is a kind of fiction: the good end unhappily, the bad happily; that is what news means.) And I dare say that the majority of our readers, with 20 minutes in which to read their papers while they are jostled and pushed eyeball to eyeball up against complete strangers on the Central Line, do not have the time or the concentration to read the hard stuff of creative writing, or whatever unsatisfactory epithet you give it. Nevertheless, it is the real thing. The work of our poets and novelists matters more and will last longer than the little disturbances of the news. Discovering a good writer is far more exciting than discovering a new painting or a new city. There are signs that the news about new fiction is catching on. For some time *Granta* at Cambridge has been spreading the word and making money by publishing new creative writing with Penguin. And next week the latest *Fiction Magazine* comes out. You don't need to be Einstein to work out that it will consist mainly of fiction, to assuage the appetites of us addicts who cannot wait until the next novel. Short stories by Maggie Cox and Russell Hoban are firmly rooted in London. Saul Bellow sets his in Chicago; and George Mackay Brown in the Orkneys. Where else, for either of them? Well, quite a lot of places, but that is another story. Joshua Shtofinski (investigating the

death of the novel: prime suspect, Italo Calvino) finds himself located somewhere within the wild imagination of his creator, Clive Sinclair. The magazine was founded a year ago with a grant of £3,000 from the Arts Council, which still pays its contributors its minimum rate (peanuts). It is carried on by the generosity and enthusiasm of lovers of fiction; like my friend and colleague Philippa Toomey, who has just lent it a bit of her inheritance to keep the presses turning. In its brief life it has published some notable scoops that turn other literary editors green with envy. There was a delightful interview between Ishiguro and Timothy Mo. And the issue devoted to new Irish writing, including all the pros and the prose of previously unread stars, was a notable coup. Cries of jealousy and admiration from Webb and Tomalin and other literary editors could be heard a mile away from Fleet Street. The magazine's editor, Judy Cook, sees its prime function as discovering and introducing new writers, and providing them with a regular platform. It can keep the links between writer and reader in the long wait for the next novel, or the long gap between hardback and paperback publication. I can see that commercially it is a fairly dicey project. How many people want to read fiction, for Jane's sake, when they can read politics, gossip, crime, and all the other raw material of life in the daily press? Well about 10,000 an issue at present, mainly buying their quarterly dose in the newsagents such as W.H. Smith and Menzies, sneered by the *bien-pensants*. It is a deplorable development. And we had better keep quiet about it. If word got out that reading the best writing by our brave new writers was more fun even than reading newspapers, it might catch on. And that would never do.

Int net for

A SPECIAL REPORT

This week's successful launch by a European rocket of a US satellite is balanced by trade union opposition both to moves to break the monopoly position of British Telecom and competition by the private Mercury group. We also look at the new telephones and developments in cable and satellite television.

Telecommunications

ON OTHER PAGES

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- Page IV: Business Systems New telephones
- Page VI: System X Telex developments Electronic publishing Networks
- Page VIII: Cable Satellites Weather forecasting Rocket launchers

In the last decade telecommunications and its political control has become an extremely sensitive issue both at home and overseas. The British Government's attempts, which were to begin in 1980, to liberalise the British telecommunications industry from the dominance of the state controlled British Telecom - then part of the Post Office - were to highlight those sensitivities.

Competition would stimulate the electronics industry, commerce and ultimately the economy as a whole since telecommunications was as important an ingredient in successful business activity as was finance, energy and transport. The advance of telecommunications was a measure of the efficiency of the industries which depended on them. That was the theory.

Despite the political difficulties experienced in the past three years the British Government has remained convinced that the monopoly enjoyed by British Telecom for 60 years must be broken and that British industry must innovate to compete with any threat from overseas suppliers. That foreign competition will be on show next week in Geneva at Telecom '83 (October 25-November 1) where the world's telecommunication equipment designers, manufacturers and suppliers will have their products on show. The British flag is to be flown through a joint effort by British Telecom and the principal manufacturers in the UK - Plessey, GEC STC and TMC.

It is a curious partnership because the relationships between the companies have been subject to a whole series of stresses in the past three years, fuelled by the Government's attempts to encourage the private sector to compete with British Telecom.

The first moves were made by Sir Keith Joseph, then Secretary of State for industry, who in 1980 outlined the blueprint for a new approach to telecommunications and one that would be the envy of the world. No longer would the British market be dominated by the state. Other suppliers would

be able to provide services and the customers would benefit by being able to buy their telephones from whoever they chose.

The theory was flawless but the reality something different. The vehicle for that transition was the British Telecommunications Act which became law in July, 1981. It not only split the postal and giro side of the Post Office from the telecommunications arm of the corporation, creating British Telecom, but it was to empower the Secretary of State for Industry to award licences to commercial interests wishing to compete with the state corporation.

By February, 1982 a licence had been granted to one such commercial enterprise, Mercury, a consortium of Cable & Wireless, BP and Barclays Merchant Bank. The trade unions led by the Post Office Engineering Union which represents more than half of the employees of British Telecom was never keen on liberalization because of the danger of a flood of foreign imports, but declared its opposition to the Mercury consortium and vowed to oppose it in any way possible.

The whole liberalization policy however had got bogged down. Small manufacturers wishing to compete in equipment supply were to complain constantly that British Telecom which played a crucial role in determining whether products were technically acceptable was not responsive enough and the time delays were unacceptable. Independent suppliers were to be further annoyed and the Government embarrassed by the expansion of British Telecom into new areas of business activity covering the complete spectrum from the supply of advanced business systems to cable television.

Although it had been discussed for some time, the reality was inescapable. British Telecom itself should be put into private hands, allowing it to grow and modernize at its own pace with freedom to raise the necessary cash from the city.

That meant another round of legislation, a new British Telecommunications Act. It would



Give somebody a ring! Both British Telecom-approved and non-approved equipment now available. Robert Swains, who runs the Empecey Telephones concession at Selfridges, London, has more than one hundred telephones and answering machines on offer. Picture by Heini Schneebeli

have been law had it not been for the timing of the general election. Its passage although never seriously threatened in the House of Commons was to be troublesome. Even some Conservative backbenchers, stalwarts of privatization and opponents of state control, were worried about the dangers which might face rural telephone subscribers. The new British Telecom was to be a commercially driven company, so would emergency and rural services be cut to the minimum in pursuit of maximum profits?

The industry itself was dissatisfied and is still not content. Sir Keith Joseph had emphasized in 1980 that no foreign company would be given a licence to supply equipment to the British market unless the application was accompanied by assurances that would result in "real reciprocity". The idea was simple but politically naive. Joseph was soon to find that the constraints imposed by the rules of the EEC and GATT meant that he could not protect the home industries if he liberalized the market. There has been no avalanche of foreign goods on to the British market but these are early days.

The flagship of the British telecommunications industry, System X, was to flounder badly in foreign markets. The system originally designed to be used at home and to attack the markets of the old commonwealth was having trouble competing. A marketing group set up in 1981 to promote the product overseas was proving ineffectual and had only managed to complete one sale which was to a British company-Cable & Wireless which bought a small £2m exchange for installation in the West Indies. By the beginning of this year the partnership which designed and built the electronic exchange had broken up. Standard Telephone & Cables (STC) withdrew from the consortium, leaving Plessey, GEC and British Telecom. The marketing

company was disbanded and its responsibility divided between Plessey and GEC. But the liberalization policy was still being pursued albeit modestly. The breakup of the telecommunications giant American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) and the sale of its local operating companies meant that the United States market was going to be more competitive. Britain should follow suit. Moves by the Japanese to privatize Nippon Telephone and Telegraph (NTT) and possibly break it up into local operating companies were to convince the Government that it was on the right road.

The major suppliers to British Telecom-STC, GEC and Plessey - were not convinced that the strategy was right since the corporation still had a dominant role. They requested, through their trade association, that the amount of equipment which British Telecom should be allowed to supply be limited to a fixed quota. They ideally wanted the corporation barred from the supply of any equipment. They compromised for a quota - and got nothing in the end. But the development of satellite transmission and cable television in the United States had caught the imagination of

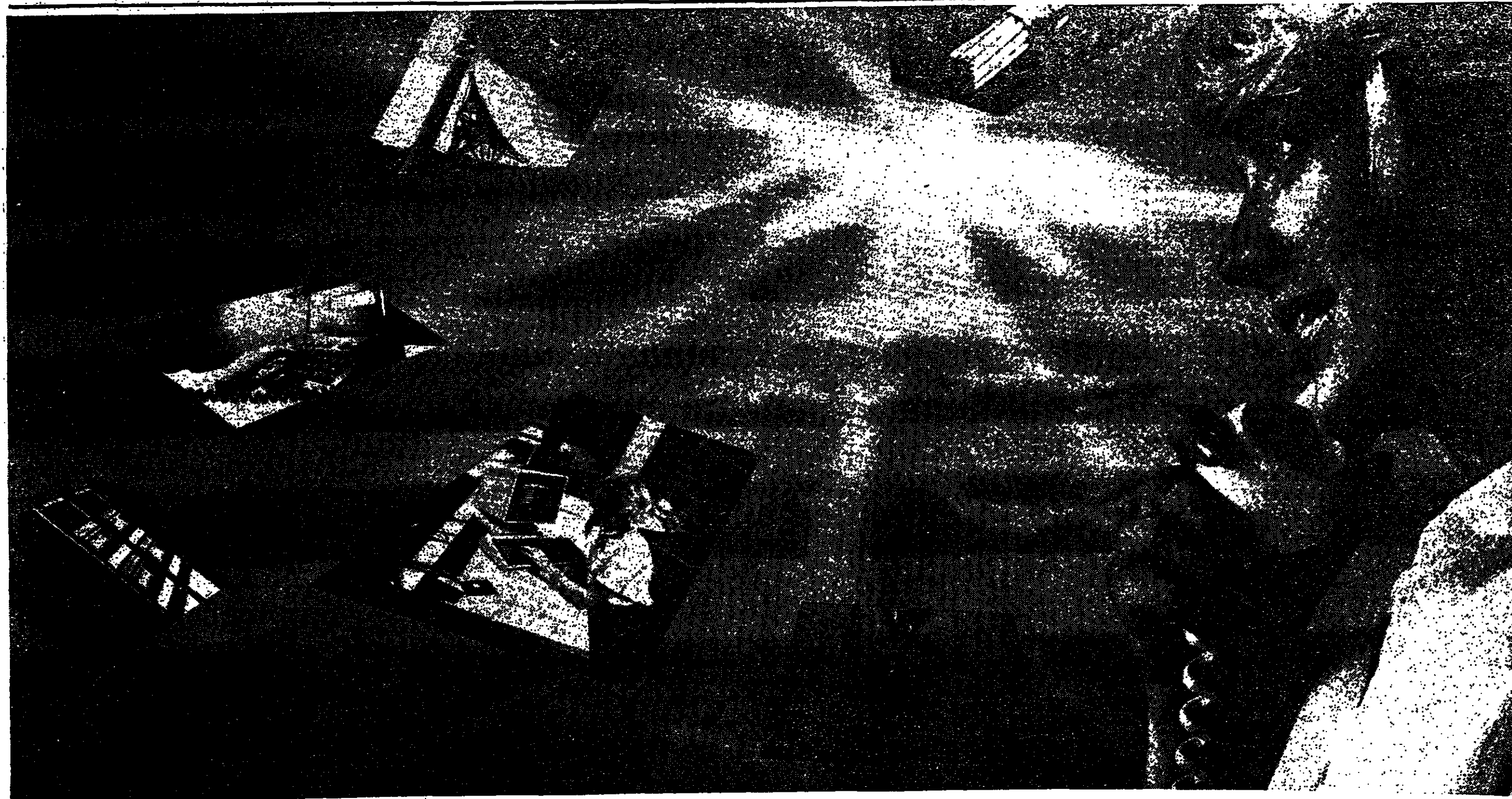
the industrial advisers to the Cabinet Office.

More than £85m a year is now being spent by Britain on research development projects on space. The monies are culled principally from the resources of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Science and Engineering Research Council. About 75 per cent of that funding is spent through Britain's membership of the European Space Agency (ESA). In Britain the design and manufacturing capability on satellites and the necessary electronics is spearheaded by British Telecom, British Aerospace and Marconi.

Cable television has been given approval for expansion despite many months of argument between the Home Office, which views itself as guardian of the broadcasting airways, and the Department of Trade and Industry which is committed to stimulating the electronics industry and will use any vehicle to that end. A Cabinet Office report, prepared by the Information Technology Advisory Panel (ITAP) and published in March 1982, called for approval to be given to the early expansion of cable television. One third of a multichannel system, typically 10 of 30 channels, ITAP claimed were to be devoted to services such as shopping, banking, voting and a whole range of services on these "home telecommunication" networks. The Government is presently deciding which 12 applicants from a batch of 37 will be given the first franchises for multichannel cable television in Britain.

A new telecommunications market stimulated by the breaking of British Telecom's monopoly, the expansion of cable and satellite will be created in Britain but how much of that can be commanded by British suppliers only time will tell. The exhibits at Telecom '83 will give them a taste of that competition.

Bill Johnstone
Electronics Correspondent



Integrating networks for the future.

Communication networks must talk and work together. That's a need which Plessey interfaces up to. To enable this network integration, Plessey uses every modern telecoms technology - plus new technologies it's developing itself. Analogue to analogue. Analogue to digital. Digital to digital. Plessey can link one network to another. And another, and another, and another..... It has the interworking skills in switching and transmission to marry one generation of equipment to the next, irrespective of the make. With its own new generation of digital systems and equipment, Plessey is spearheading this communications evolution. In Britain's System X, in satellite and cable, in fibre optics and broadband, Plessey is committed. In private business exchanges, data networks,

telex, teletext and integrated office systems, Plessey involvement is complete. Plessey works around the world, in more than eighty countries. It's helping to provide the unified services for voice, text and data that business and nations require. Interfacing, integrating, interworking. To find out more, contact John Pollard, Plessey Telecommunications & Office Systems Limited, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1LA. Telephone: Nottingham (0602) 254831 Ext. 4251. Telex: 37201.

PLESSEY
telecommunications & office systems
Ahead in business communications.

BT dominant, and growing stronger

British Telecom is a company in transition. It has been since the Government's announcement three years ago that the British telecommunications market was to be liberalized and the corporation forced to compete with the private sector.

Under the astute chairmanship of Sir George Jefferson, BT has been divided into profit centres, with each responsible for its own schedules, productivity and even advertising budget.

The change, though far from complete, has disturbed many manufacturers in the telecommunications industry and even some Conservative backbenchers who supported the Government's policy.

On the industrial side the discontent stems largely from those who have witnessed BT confidently expanding its activities, word-processors, micro-computer systems and cable television expertise. BT is still a dominant force in the telecommunications market and there is every indication that it will retain that status for many years.

Its modernization programme, now in the region of £2,000m a year, makes BT the most attractive customer in the UK telecommunications industry. Suppliers ignore its wishes at their peril. That influence, many in the telecommunications industry maintain, makes a mockery of the Government's policy on telecommunications.

It is that influence, if the Government's intention to sell 51 per cent of the corporation is implemented, which is disturbing many MPs of all parties, including some Conservative backbenchers.

The new British Telecommunications Act will become law during the next session of Parliament. That will transform BT into a private company whose shares can be disposed of by the Secretary for Industry. He intends beginning that disposal next autumn.

The anxious MPs are frightened that the corporation will be transformed from being a publicly-owned monopoly to a privately-owned one with little accountability to government.

The fears have been allayed by Government assurances that BT must abide by the conditions outlined in a licence to be awarded by the Secretary for Industry. This licence will be the subject of heated debate from both sides of the House, particularly from members who want to be confident that emergency services, rural telephone services and telephone kiosks will still be provided and properly maintained.

The corporation is a political hot potato and will continue to be so even after privatization. It is that factor which has worried the Treasury, the Department of

Trade and Industry and the City advisers who are masterminding the sale of the corporation's shares. Will a corporation constrained by a restrictive operating licence, requiring it to provide non-economic services from profits in other areas, be an attractive proposition for investors? Will these responsibilities and the political outcry every time there is a tariff increase discourage future investment?

The sheer scale of the proposed BT issue is another major problem. The company has yet to be valued. Depending on the accountancy convention used, the company's assets vary between £10,000m and £16,000m. Fifty-one per cent of the company would be worth at least £5,000m. The flotation of one tranche of such size on the market may prove to be impracticable.

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Profit-maker: BT chairman Sir George Jefferson

impracticable. The sale of more than one tranche is unsatisfactory since it would produce further uncertainty about the time of the next.

The corporation would still be state owned and constrained in its commercial borrowings until 51 per cent was owned by the private sector. Selling shares to subscribers and placing shares on foreign exchanges may provide the answer.

The new telecommunications authority to be created by the forthcoming legislation, will monitor the British telecommunications industry and BT.

It is still uncertain whether BT's role as telecommunications representative of the government is to be altered. Britain is a member of the European Space Agency (ESA) with which all the telecommunications authorities negotiate through their joint body, Eutelsat. The coordi-

ation between countries is vital in controlling satellite transmissions and standards. If, however, Britain is to have several companies - Mercury and more of the same - providing international telecommunications links in competition with BT, then someone else will need to represent Britain at the satellite table.

Despite political rhetoric to the contrary, BT's role in cable television will be substantial. Apart from carrying programmes between cities, from one local station to another and leasing cable to local operators who have no cable of their own, the corporation has agreed to join nine consortia which have applied for franchises as a full partner.

British Telecom is and will remain a dominant force in all aspects of the UK telecommunications industry.

Shareholders in Mercury are Cable & Wireless and British Petroleum, with 40 per cent each, and Barclays Merchant Bank with the remaining 20 per cent. These three partners have to date put up £89.6m - money which has either been spent or is firmly committed.

Apart from funding the venture and having non-executive directors on the board, the three shareholders play no direct role in running Mercury. One aspect of the original Mercury announcement which caught the public imagination was the scheme to use optical fibre cables running along British Rail tracks.

The main snag was that using BR's tracks in this way could have resulted in liability for Development Land Tax. That problem has now been resolved satisfactorily, and in September an agreement was signed with BR which allows Mercury to go ahead with its initial plan for a figure-of-eight network, centred on Birmingham.

The southern loop will take in London and Bristol, and the northern loop will connect with Leeds, Manchester, and Stoke-on-Trent. There will be smaller subsidiary loops, and when the full figure-of-eight is complete by 1985 BR can expect payments from Mercury of more than £2.25m a year.

Mercury did not wait for ordering optical fibre cables. In July contracts worth about £8m were placed with GEC Telecommunications for 120 miles of cabling, and with BICC

New network's mercuric rise



Intriguing developments: Derek Evans, Chief Executive of Mercury

When Mercury Communications received a licence in February 1982 to build a privately owned national network competing with British Telecom, it was obvious that a new era was about to open in this country's telecommunications. But just how far-reaching the changes would be was much less clear.

To many observers, it seemed likely that Mercury would gain most of its traffic from large business users who wished to send streams of data at high speed over leased lines from one company location to another. Today, the picture is very different.

Mercury's licence allows it to offer a switched service, for both voice and data, putting the company on a par with British Telecom as a national carrier. Mercury has also overcome a number of hurdles to gain the freedom to operate as an international carrier as well.

The next step could be the extension of Mercury's services to the private telephone user, providing a true alternative from top to bottom of the telecommunications market.



Telecommunications Cables for 320 miles. Plessey Telecommunications will act as subcontractor for opto-electronic equipment.

As well as placing the orders with British companies, Mercury has given a filip to advanced technology by choosing monomode fibre, rather than the multimode type.

Monomode fibre gives a better all-round performance. At present, optical fibres for the British trunk network can have a carrying capacity of 10 Megabits per second (Mbit/s), but Mercury plans to upgrade performance to 560 Mbit/s per fibre.

Another advantage of monomode technology is that the regenerators which boost the signal along its route need only be spaced at intervals of 25 km (15½ miles). A 140 Mbit/s system using multimode fibres requires regenerators every 8-10 km (5-6 miles).

While it is pursuing the high-technology route with optical fibres, Mercury is meeting immediate demands for service with microwave radio. Links are already operating in London using roof-top dishes for line-of-sight communications, and the first connection between London and Birmingham will be achieved with a chain of six microwave sites.

This inter-city link should come into operation before the end of this year, together with the Birmingham city service.

After that it should be optical fibres all the way for the United Kingdom network. The London to Birmingham microwave link will be replaced by fibres late in the third quarter of 1984. By the end of next year, there should be optical fibres linking London to Bristol, Birmingham to

Manchester via Leeds, and Birmingham to Bristol.

The initial network will be completed with an optical fibre link from Manchester to Birmingham via Stafford in the second quarter of 1985, and a London optical fibre ring should be in place a little earlier.

Local distribution to customers' premises will be by radio, using cellular techniques which help to conserve frequencies. Before long, though, some city subscribers may be able to connect to a cable network.

Agreement on wayleaves is the key to this development. Mercury is keeping quiet about who it might be negotiating with, but there are obvious candidates. The tunnels of the London Underground and the now-disused network of London Hydraulic Power are just two possibilities.

For international communications, an agreement was signed with British Telecom International last December giving Mercury access to space segments on satellites where BT acts for the UK as a whole. Since then, Mercury has taken steps to secure links of its own.

It has booked capacity on Intelsat V, which is due for launch early next year, and also on the French Telecom-1 satellite, which is expected to be in orbit in the autumn of 1984. On the ground, Mercury has ordered its first earth station from Marconi... at something over £2.25m, and this may be sited close to Oxford Airport.

At the simplest level, Mercury will offer cable TV companies trunking facilities to send material from one local operation to another.

Already Mercury is talking to the companies which are seeking cable TV licences, and offering some form of partnership which would exploit the house connections which will have already been cost-justified for entertainment services.

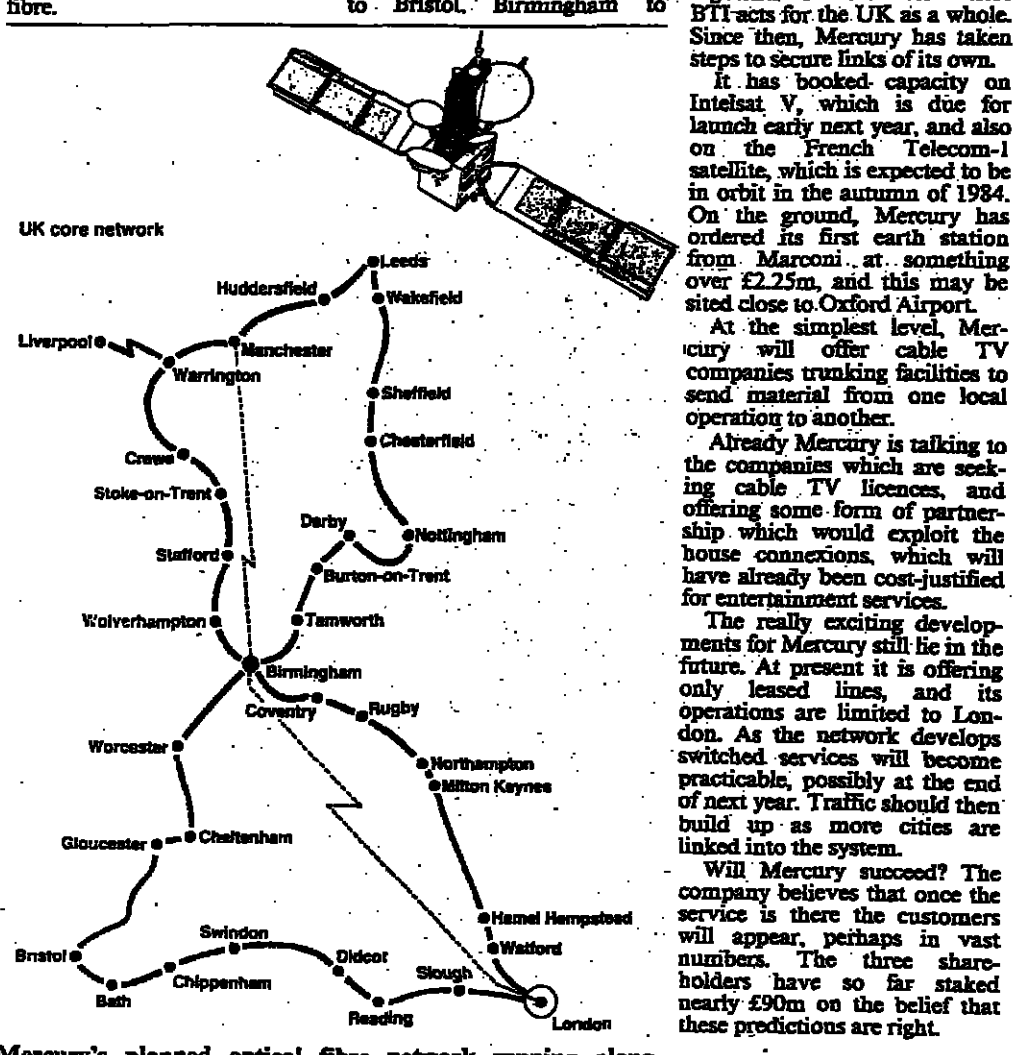
The really exciting developments for Mercury still lie in the future. At present it is offering only leased lines, and its operations are limited to London. As the network develops switched services will become practicable, possibly at the end of next year. Traffic should then build up as more cities are linked into the system.

Will Mercury succeed? The company believes that once the service is there the customers will appear, perhaps in vast numbers. The three shareholders have so far staked nearly £90m on the belief that these predictions are right.

Mercury's planned optical fibre network running along British Rail tracks

Mercury's planned optical fibre network running along British Rail tracks

Mercury's planned optical fibre network running along British Rail tracks



Roger Woolnough

The union at the centre of the row

The engineers' unlikely quarrel

Unions in the telecommunications industry have found themselves in the unlikely role of leading the attack on the Government's plans to cut back the size and influence of the public sector.

In the vanguard of the campaign - against both privatization of British Telecom and the opening up of competition by the private enterprise Mercury group - is the traditionally moderate Post Office Engineering Workers' Union.

The union has for years been part of the right-wing bulwark of the TUC now in the ascendancy. Although its membership remains essentially conservative the leadership swung dramatically to the left in elections during the summer, with the result that the campaign of industrial action is now being pursued with renewed vigour.

The campaign of "guerrilla" action intensified this month, involving more than 1,000 engineers in BT's international telephone exchanges. Management has retaliated with widespread suspensions, and by moving senior managers into three exchanges in what was described as a "military-style operation".

A left majority on the union executive contains an influential



Bryan Stanley

grouping of Militant Tendency supporters, but there is little sign of dissatisfaction among the membership with the leadership's tactics. Ordinary members may not share the executives ideological opposition to privatization, but they are worried about job security and the future of the industry.

A special conference of the POEU in September decided to look for further ways of bringing pressure on the Government, although the actual strategy has been left to the executive. That strategy has now unfolded, with the union taking action in areas which will have the most impact on BT's lucrative business and international traffic.

It is linked to continued action designed to disrupt Mercury's operations as fledgling groups start their full-blooded competition for the business market which provides BT with a large slice of its profits.

The target for action against Mercury has been its three shareholders - Cable and Wireless, Barclays Bank and British Petroleum. Members have been instructed not to respond to BT requests for repairs at their head offices, and in turn, BT has suspended engineers obeying union instructions.

POEU members are also refusing to carry out any work which links Mercury's circuits to BT equipment and so far the link-up work has been done by managers. The union is seeking the support of other unions and is reminding TUC affiliates of the decision taken at Blackpool in September to carry out a

concerted joint campaign against privatization in any industry where jobs were threatened.

BT now employs about 240,000 people and the POEU fears that many thousands of jobs are likely to disappear as telephone exchanges become more mechanized. Privatization of BT would give an added impetus to job losses, union officials fear, and they argue it will also lead to a reduction in the quality of service to the customer.

The six telecommunications unions spent more than £500,000 to promote their message in the first union campaign against the Telecommunications Bill, which ran out of time when the General Election was called in June. The only real industrial action during that campaign was a one-day strike in October in which three of the unions participated and since then the POEU has effectively been on its own in adopting a militant posture.

The best indicator of the POEU's determination to take on the Government, however, is what is an overtly political dispute - it is likely to be its attitude to the legal action

Continued on page VI

Continued on page VI

The big temptation to shop abroad

British Telecom began hinting that the liberalization of the telecommunications industry would not necessarily mean a bonanza for British industry earlier this year. Mr Charles May, BT's director of research, first sent a shudder through the telecommunications equipment industry when he explained at a private meeting in March that if BT became a private company it should buy most of its equipment from abroad. He said that given the choice he would personally recommend that more equipment was bought from Japan, Sweden and Germany.

Subsequently his thoughts were reinforced by Sir George Jefferson, chairman of BT, who said that there was much room for improvement from the British industry. He indicated that as a prelude to privatization BT was considering shaking up its traditionally easy relationship with its main British suppliers, GEC, Plessey and STC. Although BT still takes about 80 per cent of its equipment from the big three, Sir George made it clear that BT had already begun talks with IBM, IIT and American Telephone and Telegraph about importing large quantities of United States built telecommunications equipment.

Later BT denied that its official policy would be to buy from abroad.

However the comments are deeply embarrassing for the Government which originally dreamed that the privatization of BT would open up huge new markets for telecommuni-

cations equipment for British industry.

When the Government first mooted the possibility that BT would be privatized it took the view that a host of new entrepreneurial companies would spring up to take advantage of the new markets, particularly for customer equipment, that would be created once the BT monopoly ended. The United Kingdom market for customer equipment is estimated by consultants, PACTEL, to be worth about £230m this year. The market splits five ways with £100m of orders available for small private exchanges (PABXs), about £50m of orders for large PABXs over 100 lines, a £30m market for special telephones, £20m market for key systems and a £30m market for other equipment including facsimiles, answering machines and peripheral telephone devices.

But the original strategy which was designed to shake BT's cosy relationship with its traditional suppliers by providing market opportunities for British firms is not working in the way that was originally intended. To date very few new products have reached the market from private industry.

The established suppliers like GEC, Plessey, STC and TMC are more concerned about BT's threat to buy major items of equipment from abroad than the additional competition provided by a new breed of companies entering the customer equipment market. Ironically those new companies

which have been established are tending not to compete direct with BT for customers. Instead they are tending to compete for work with BT which still has dominant position in the supply of telecommunications service.

BT has also made it difficult for the smaller companies at local level by responding quickly to the changed marketplace.

BT has established 61 regional profit centres to deal with the problem which are able to supply both the basic telecommunications service and customer equipment. In addition BT is building a close relationship with ICL, Britain's leading computer company to offer a new range of products in office automation.

The market for both small

and large PABX's has attracted most attention from new companies hoping to take advantage of liberalization.

Merlin a small company in Gloucestershire, backed by £1m from the City investing institutions, is one company which has braved the problems to take on the giants of the industry. It is offering subscribers a new

small digital private exchange in one of the first moves to break the traditional BT monopoly in the supply of such equipment. Others who have joined the fray include Small Systems Engineering, while BT is maintaining its competitive edge by continuing to offer its smallest exchanges like GEC's Senator and TMC's Ensign, which serve as

few as four extensions for about £1,000.

Progress has also been hindered by the delay in establishing technical standards for the new exchanges by the British Standards Institution in conjunction with industry. A number of interim measures have been agreed to speed up liberalization but the delay in setting proper standards means that the real benefit for liberalization in this area will not be felt until next year. Even then buyers are advised not to buy equipment for a few years at least by which time standards will be agreed and there will be true competition and lower prices in the marketplace.

In the meantime Plessey and GEC have both decided to import some PABX's until they have time to develop new systems of their own.

More progress has been made in introducing cordless telephones. The Home Office allocated frequencies for cordless phones earlier this year and the first legal products came onto the market in the Spring. Fidelity Radio, which launched a new cordless phone in conjunction with BT in April estimates that the UK market for the phones could reach one million units a year by 1987. In 1984 Fidelity is looking for a market of about 200,000 units. The latest cordless phones cost about £170 each and employ a small radio link which allows the handset to be used up to 600 feet from the main telephone.

Fidelity has been followed into the UK market by Plessey, Answercall Geomarc and An-

swerspieces, which are all British manufacturers meeting the Government's stipulation that the equipment should be made in Britain as soon as possible with a high proportion of British parts. Fidelity plans to produce about 170,000 cordless phones each year from its factory in West London, while Conversation Pieces, will initially assemble a Hongkong factory and will manufacture about 25,000 phones each year.

The ambitious estimates of demand for the new phones stem, in part, from BT's estimate that there are currently 200,000 illegal cordless phones in use in Britain which contravene Home Office rules on wavelengths.

The other major potential market for British companies is the relatively simple production of products like fancy telephones, where companies like Conversation Pieces and Astral Telecom are making some headway. Small private companies are also making items of equipment like telephone printers, answering machine and extension phones.

What the Government has yet to discover is whether liberalization will eventually lead to more jobs and a better deal for the consumer, or whether BT's dominant position will be used to squeeze British companies by using its new found freedom to buy from abroad.

Andrew Cornelius

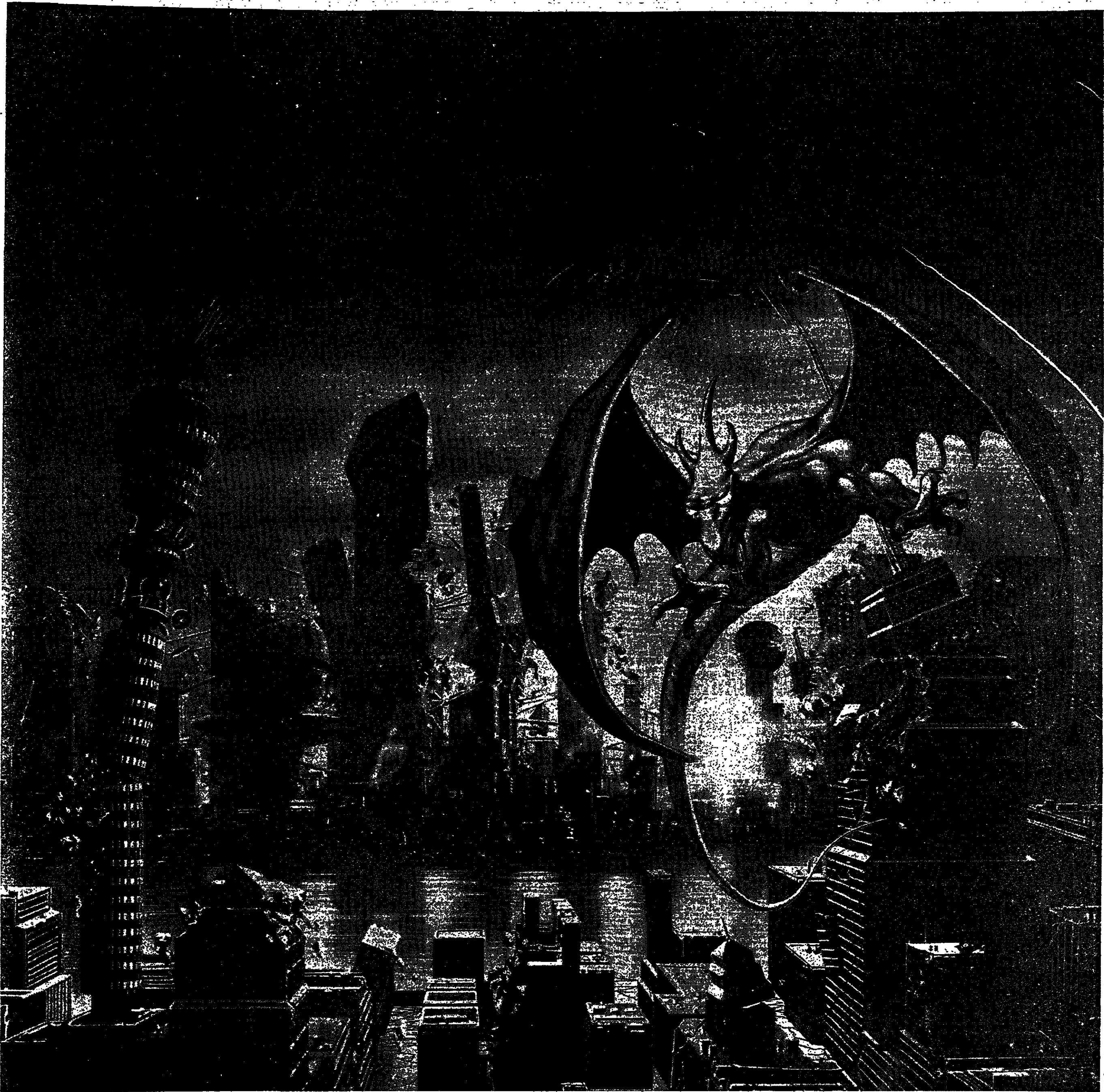


Ready to ring: production line at Plessey

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In fact, the future is going to be a lot nicer place than most people think.

Some popular conceptions of the future could leave you hoping that tomorrow will never come.

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It's called human creativity. And its brain child is modern technology.

Properly applied, this means that whatever problems present themselves we have the power to overcome them.

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And at Telecom '83 Geneva, we're showing how that future will, before long, affect everybody's lives.

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video, a dramatic new concept for the telecommunications industry.

Secondly, we're showing how existing office equipment and wiring could be used to create a total office automation and communication system.

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Putting expansion on the line

Business systems as an annual market in Britain now worth well over £200m, and growth rates as much as 20 per cent a year are being anticipated. As sales volume grows prices are still tumbling, although more sophisticated equipment is constantly being launched to add to the expansion.

This explains the scramble by so many companies to sell both hardware - the machines and gadgets - and the software programming material.

There are around 30 key suppliers of business systems equipment, with many more creeping into the market usually with more peripheral products. About 10 are spreading heavily on television advertising to spearhead their promotional drives, and even more have extended campaigns in the printed media, especially the colour magazines.

Business systems

may shift out of line from time to time so shopping around is sensible.

But the priority for any business is to get the right special package for its own special needs. Mr Nicholas Staveley, head of marketing services at BT's Merlin division, said: "From that point of view the hardware is not as price-sensitive as it would otherwise be. Even though prices will come down it will not necessarily mean businesses will be spending less."

In the professional personal computer sector, which since IBM's entry into the market has shed its plaything image, prices could come down by 10 per cent a year for the next few years, according to some trade forecasts.

These computers, providing high-density workstations for the executive for around £3,000, have more than doubled their worldwide sales this year. Dataquest, the market researchers, suggest that the worldwide market could go from £6bn this year to more than £34bn by 1987.

Electronic typewriters are selling at an annual rate of around £70m while traditional typewriters, mostly electrical, are worth just under £12m a year, according to trade estimates.

Word processors, including those with full page capacity (a sub-sector worth about £9m a year), have annual sales of about £70m. Shared workstations probably add another £20m in sales. About the same annual sales value is attributed to personal computers with text processing, including hard-copy printers. Various add-on components to the electronic typewriters are thought to be selling at a rate of more than £5m a year.

In these fast-moving markets there are obvious overlaps in definition. Nevertheless, taking account of the growing contribution of software, a business systems total market in Britain of £200m is probably a conservative estimate. Some in the trade believe the annual value is now nearer £300m.

In the desk-top business computer market prices can be as low as £600 to £1,000. But typically companies are spending around £7,000 on a new system, according to Mr Staveley at Merlin.



Engineers working on a microwave dish providing data links in central London.

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People in the market will probably continue to get closer to the problems of different types of business and software and hardware packages suitable for a particular industry are now being created. The latest example of this is the Modulus system for retail travel agents, designed by Tourism Technology and backed by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA). ABTA has just concluded an exclusive United Kingdom sales and service deal with BT's Merlin division.

It is a modular system allowing for expansion and easy for everything from single-outlet agencies to the big chains. The main price range is

from just over £5,000 to rather more than £12,000, including all the specialist software.

Systems appealing to other large groups are now in prospect. In agriculture co-operative marketing has already taken hold. The medical sector is another possibility. So are other professions and trades where specific software programmes could be produced to meet their special needs.

The next generation of personal computers is likely to be able to operate with a wide variety of software from most manufacturers. A screen with multiple "windows" could have separate applications running in each window. In software the main thrust is expected to be towards ease of use by the executive at the workstation.

Electronic mail systems are expected to develop further with direct terminal-to-terminal messages.

Videoconferences are another likely development, following the growing adoption of sound-only systems which employ microphones and a telephone link. British Telecom has a couple of videoconference systems on trial and plans an extended trial involving some 20 companies.

DH

DH

After Mickey Mouse how about Snoopy?

Now British Telecom is no longer the sole supplier of telephone equipment in the home competition is bringing a flood of new products into the shops - and some possible confusion for the householder.

Rent or buy? That is one question. There is also the proliferation of new equipment from telephones that remember numbers - and dial them at the push of one button - to the cordless sets which are now starting to be approved. Automatic redialling is becoming another feature.

How about a Snoopy phone shaped like the cartoon character? That is a new addition, after the Mickey Mouse phone, to British Telecom's own offerings in the sector known as decorator phones which also include the various antique and decorative chinaware styles.

More of what the Americans call fad phones, exploiting the more passing fashions like the latest sci-fi here, could be on the way. The United States, with a more mature free market in telephones, has seen a rash of fad phones.

Harrods, which like other retailers has been stocking an increasing number of telephones as demand has increased, now has 20 different models on offer. British Telecom itself has nearly as many. One Danish model at Harrods, which stores addresses as well as telephone numbers in its memory, costs £461.

A cordless phone now approved for use in Britain, the Wanderer made by Fidelity, a British company, is selling at £223 in Harrods. It can take calls or dial them out through the base telephone at a distance as far as 600 feet. Some rather more expensive cordless phones on offer, but not yet approved for British use, have a range of up to seven miles.

Cordless phones link to the main base telephone by radio and are powered by batteries which either need replacing with a quick-fit cartridge or more usually have to be recharged about once a week.

The slowness in approving cordless telephones for the British market is largely because of possible problems with creating interference with other users of radio bands. Home Office regulations have to be met.

The only other cordless phone approved so far is British Telecom's own, the Hawk, which is also manufactured by Fidelity. It is being priced at around £170 and is likely to be sold outright by British Telecom rather than following the

normal practice of offering a rental deal as an alternative to buying.

Making a decision as between renting or buying depends to some extent on the costings for specific instruments. Take British Telecom's feature phone, the Sceptre 100, which incorporates a clock, read-out of a call made, a numbers memory and a re-dialling facility as its main features.

It can be bought for £79.95 and there is an optional phone-care service costing £1.35 a quarter from November 1 when some charges are rising.

On rental if the Sceptre is used as the main telephone there is a common connection charge of £30 with quarterly rentals of £2. If used as an extension phone the quarterly

rental is £4.75 from November 1 but without the initial installation charge.

The Statesman, a flat-lying phone in the modern style with push button dialling, can either be bought for £35.95 (with optional phone-care service) or, if it is the main telephone, there is a £17 connection charge with no quarterly rental. As an extension it attracts a quarterly rental of £2.75 from November. All the selling prices include Value Added Tax.

There is another complication. The extension telephones of approved design come with jack plugs. (Approved telephones display a green circle sticker, non-approved a red triangle. The non-approved should not be connected to British Telecom installations. That could mean rapped knuckles or even the loss of the telephone line.)

British Telecom will install jack plug sockets. It costs between £25 and £28 for the first from November and, if the

work is done at the same time, £12 each for additional sockets. VAT has to be added. Quarterly rentals are being dropped.

Telephones with special features like memories are emerging as fast as designers can come up with new ideas. There is call-bearing equipment with which the telephone owner can usually at the turn of a key, bar the making of international calls or long-distance calls within the UK. Those from British Telecom cost £40 to connect and £1 a quarter in rental.

Equipment normally attached to small private telephone exchanges allow call diversion allows a subscriber to programme his or her telephone to divert calls to another selected number. This typically costs £10 for the connection from November and £25 a quarter in rental. Call waiting equipment allows incoming calls to be marshalled into a queue.

Although 23 per cent of Britain's 20,500,000 households still have no telephone the biggest growth in the telephone market is expected to come from an increase in extension phones, according to British Telecom. Some 14 per cent of households with phones now also have extensions and this proportion is expected to at least double in the next ten years.

The major growth will be in cordless phones, according to a new survey Home Telecommunications by Machintosh International, the consultants. As an annual market cordless phones are expected to grow from 30,000 units in 1982 to more than 780,000 units in 1987. By then feature phones are expected to be selling at 250,000 units a year.

A number of companies are developing cordless phones for the British market. One of the stipulations for approval of cordless phones is that their manufacture brings advantages to Britain as with employment. Among the companies developing cordless models are Plessey, Answercall, Conversation Pieces, Geomarc and Binatone.

All cordless phones are expected to be restricted for use as extensions at any rate until British Telecom loses its monopoly on primary phones in 1984.

Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

New phones should be cheaper

By the end of this year a wide variety of private telephone equipment will be on offer in Britain as the number of manufacturers competing in the market increases substantially. The sharp competition is expected to push prices down.

The new generation of electronic equipment can also more readily carry the growing volume of data communication which is becoming the hallmark of the electronic office.

British Telecom offers a number of private exchange systems for offices with between four and 36 extensions. Other suppliers in or about to enter this sector include Ansafone, Intercom Communications, Shipton Communications and Tlc Communications as well as the more familiar

big companies such as Plessey.

Several North American companies are increasing their presence in the liberalized British market. These include Canada-based Northern Telecom, which plans manufacturing expansion in Britain, and Mitel, another Canadian company. Mitel, recently opened a factory in Wales.

New generation exchanges offer many advantages including the ability to re-route calls within an office, and for extensions to take incoming calls direct and for calls direct and for calls to be referred to particular extensions.

DH

DH

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You simply cannot outgrow it.

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No company can afford to ignore the importance of communication. But the pace of change is such that most of today's telephone systems are out-dated before they can be installed. MD 110 changes all that - at the same time providing substantial savings in cost and time.

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Think about your company's needs over the next few years - for the next few decades. Then let us show you what MD 110 can do.

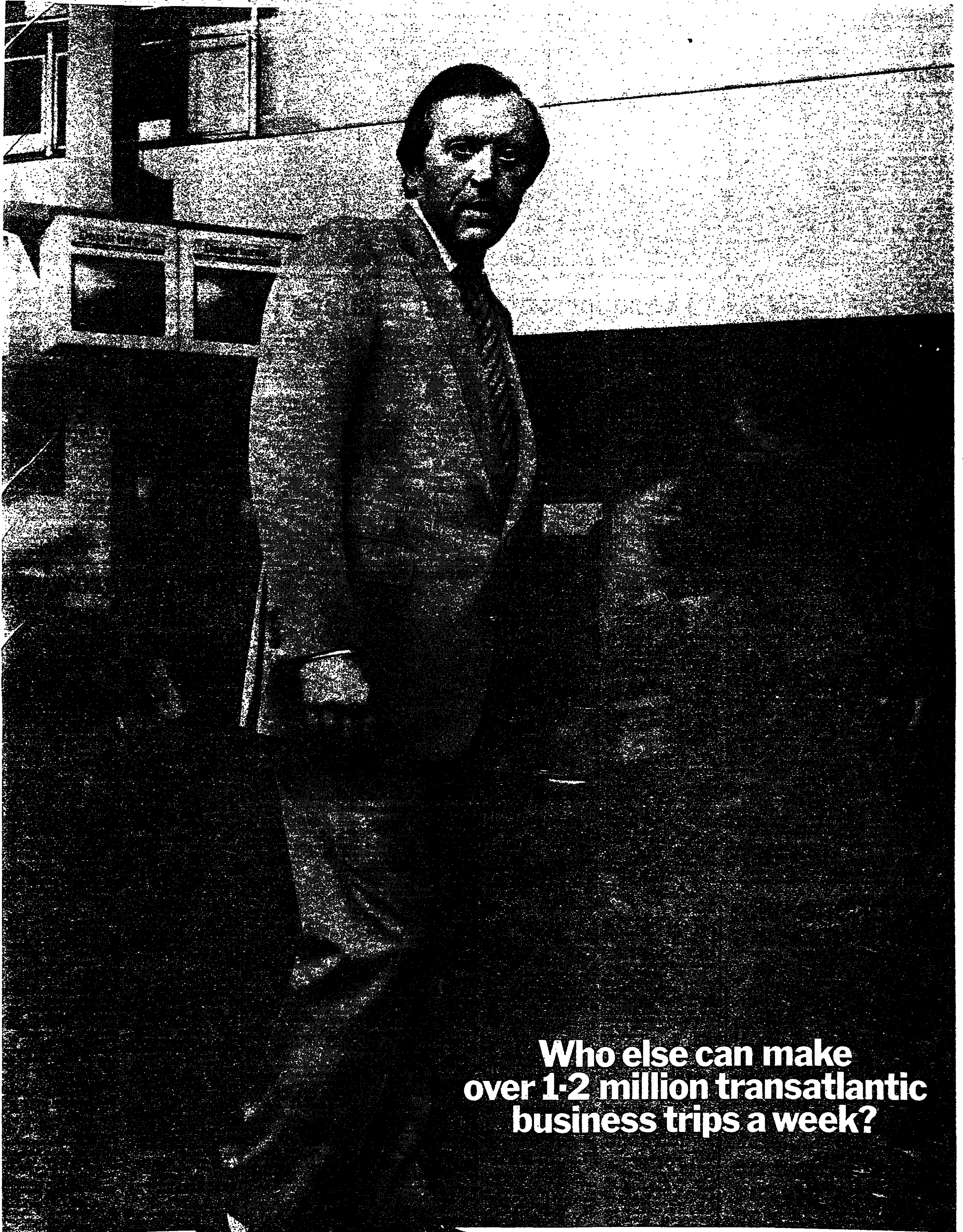
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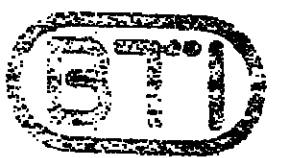
Oh yes, and your voice. Mustn't forget that.

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Or you could come and see us at "Telecom 83" in Geneva. (If you see you-know-who in the departure lounge, give him our regards.)



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Engineers on the attack

Continuing from page 11
aimed at stopping the disruption started by Mercury.

The company's writ, based on the Government's labour laws, call on the union and its general secretary Mr Bryan Stanley to rescind instructions to members taking industrial action. It is ironic that Mr Stanley is named, because he has been less enthusiastic about the campaign than his executive.

Official TUC policy is to ignore the legislation and the FOEU executive might be expected to follow that line, although it would risk leaving union funds open to sequestration by the courts.

Union officials accept that there is little chance of changing the Government's mind on privatization, although they believe they can cause sufficient difficulties to make BT an unattractive proposition when the time comes to float 51 per cent of its shares on the stock market next year. The union is also convinced that it can cause real frustration to Mercury's hopes of securing a 3 per cent segment of BT turnover.

The battles over privatization and Mercury are being conducted while the six telecommunications unions are desperately seeking ways of rationalizing their own organization through mergers and membership transfers. The process involves long drawn-out negotiations and a willingness to bury longstanding rivalry between technical, and general unions.

A Communications Council aimed at producing closer cooperation between the unions was set up under the auspices of the TUC, with the long-term objective of a single union for the industry. However, progress has been painfully slow between the two main unions - the FOEU with 122,000 members, and the 200,000-strong Union of Communication Workers.

There has been a move towards a merger between the Society of Telecom Executives and the telecom membership of the Society of Civil and Public Servants. It was thought earlier in the year that the Civil and Public Services Association's 40,000 members in BT would transfer to the FOEU, but the right-wing CPSSA executive has now gone cold on the idea.

The Communications Managers' Association has very few members left in BT, so it would seem obvious to hand those members over to the FOEU. The FOEU also has about 6,000 engineers working in the Post Office, while the UCW (formerly Tom Jackson's postmen's union) has about 40,000 members in BT who are mainly women switchboard operators.

It is in areas such as these when exchanges and transfers of members seem the obvious route, that old prejudices and rivalries prove to be serious obstacles. Each union has its own traditions and heritage and is loathe either to give them up or to dilute them.

All are agreed on the need for a single union and the consequent strength of numbers in an industry where there is a closed shop, but historical differences are likely to take many years to overcome.

David Felton
Labour Correspondent

Number please? How 80 years have changed the face of the telephone exchange



Boys operating a telephone exchange at the turn of the century, and right, a woman operator with headset and speaker. Centre, System X, Britain's newest digital exchange.

Four years ago at the international telecommunications exhibition in Geneva (Telecom '79), Britain launched its new generation System X digital telephone exchange on the world market. Hitherto much maligned, it became a star of the show. The newly formed international marketing company looked set to conquer the world and reverse Britain's rapidly declining share of the world telecommunications market.

Next week sees the opening of the next of these major events in Geneva (Telecom '83). Sadly, it will not be a time to celebrate System X successes. In the harsh reality of one of the most competitive and demanding of all markets, with the exception of one small order from Cable and Wireless for an exchange to be installed in St Vincent in the West Indies, System X has not achieved a single export sale. In that same period telecommunications administrations (PTTs) and operating companies around the world have ordered millions of digital lines of competitive systems developed by foreign companies.

The digital public telephone exchange (or more appropriately, telecommunications switch) is the key element in the new so-called information technology age. The world market for telecommunications products is currently of the order of £34,000m a year and is growing more quickly than in most other manufacturing industries. But, above all, it is a leading high technology area in which it is vital for Britain to play a major role.

The world's telecommunications networks have developed over the last century, primarily to provide a means of analogue voice communication in which varying frequencies corresponding directly to the sound waves generated by speech are carried through a network of wires, cables, radio links and electro-mechanical switches. Recent new developments in microelectronics have provided both the technical and economic means to begin

replacing this analogue network with new electronic digital systems. Digital communication enables any form of information - voice, data or images - to be represented and passed through the network in the form of groups of coded digital pulses. Such digital systems offer many advantages over analogue systems in terms of technical performance and cost, but beyond these considerable advantages they represent the beginnings of a fundamental new phase of information exchange.

The new digital networks, and in particular the digital exchanges, are products of a convergence of the technologies of communications and computing. The computer, in the form of the microprocessor, has made it possible to process and store, at an ever diminishing cost, vast amounts of complex information which could not be

handled by conventional means. Computers within the digital exchange not only handle all the complex switching, control, accounting, subscriber services and maintenance functions, but also "talk" to computers in other exchanges, in data bases, in subscriber telephones and terminals. Within the next decade much of the old analogue network will have become the new integrated services digital network (ISDN) and many of the humble telephone sets will have been replaced by computer-controlled work stations.

Nearly 300 calls a second

One recent analytical study concluded that in the 1990s some of the larger digital ISDN exchanges will be required to handle nearly 300 calls a second.

The cost of developing a complete range of these switches, from a small rural exchange with about 100 subscribers up to the large international gateway exchange with hundreds of thousands of connections, has become prohibitive to all but the large companies. Philips put the cost of such a development programme, including adaptation of the switches during their life and to meet foreign market requirements, at about £1,000m. Yet despite this high entrance fee, at least 20 companies in North America, Japan and Western Europe are in the business. So why has System X not succeeded internationally, and what is its future? Technically there is little to indicate that it is not as good as, and in some cases much more advanced than its competitors. It failed overseas for two main reasons. First, the marketing effort just simply wasn't good enough. While competitors were selling

from the drawing board and offering greatly reduced prices to secure a market foothold, the British companies were holding back, waiting to make sure they had "everything right" before selling and then reluctant to horse-trade. Secondly, Britain was up against competitors who enjoyed the total financial and political support of their governments. Contracts have often been part of a broader trade deal, often supported by low-interest loans. Presidents and prime ministers have been used to woo customers, and as we have seen in other industries, as well as telecommunications, Britain cannot compete in that league. System X exchanges are being installed in the UK network. Four installations are now in service in the local network and 46 orders had been placed for local exchanges by the end of the last financial year, serving a total of about

158,000 connections. Twenty-four System X trunk exchanges are on order, with the first scheduled to come into service in July next year. In terms of credibility, much hinges on the decisions to be taken in the near future by the Hull Telephone Company and Mercury Communications. Plessey Telecommunications and GEC Telecommunications now lead the export sales thrust. Desmond Pitcher, Plessey's managing director, remains confident that System X will be a long-term export winner. Much of the System X technology is being incorporated in the next generation digital switch being developed by Stromberg Carlson, a successful US switching company which Plessey acquired last year. India and China remain high on the list of eventual markets for the British switch, despite our defeat by foreign competitors in the first major round of orders from those countries.

R. J. Raggett
Executive Editor-International,
Telephony Publish Corp.

Super telex comes in fast

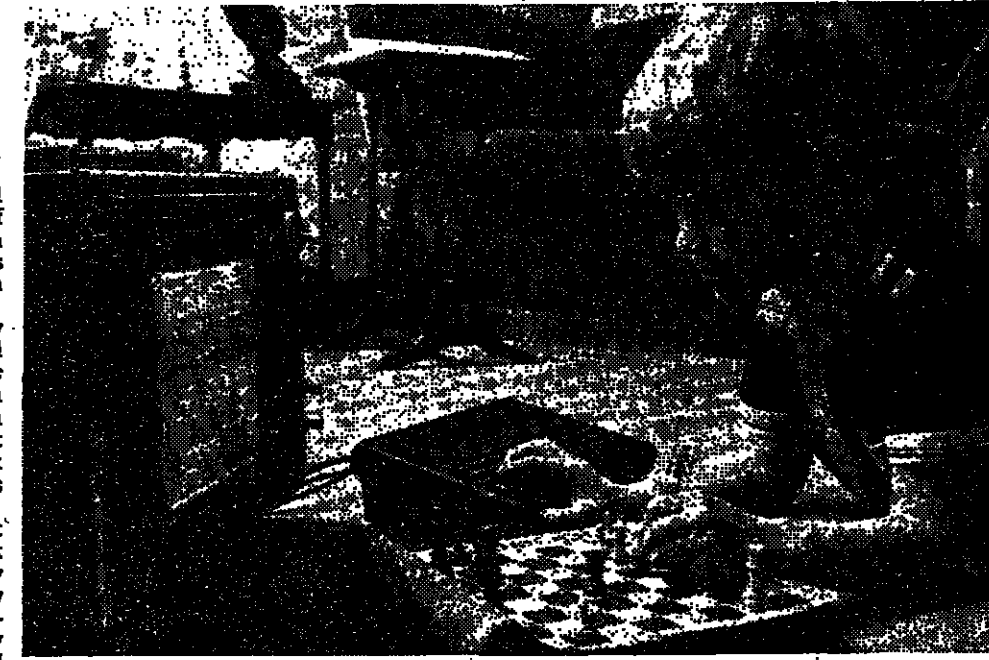
If any section of telecommunications has an image problem, it is telex. The bulky and noisy electromechanical terminal, the slow speed of sending messages, and the likelihood of transmission errors have all meant that for many people telex has been something to endure rather than enjoy. Now modern technology is transforming telex. Quiet terminals which closely resemble word-processors are coming out of dark corners and into the secretary's office. Advanced telex exchanges are in the offing, which will make call connections far more efficient.

And hovering on the horizon is a totally new service, Teletex - a kind of super-telex that will overcome most of the remaining disadvantages of the present service, and lower the cost of text transmission at the same time.

It says a lot for the sheer usefulness of telex that it has flourished in spite of its drawbacks. The number of UK

connections is now around 100,000, and the convenience of being able to send written messages all over the world has led to a rapid growth in subscribers. The benefits are particularly noticeable for international calls. Telex overcomes the problems of time zones, and can help to iron out difficulties with foreign languages as well. About 53 per cent of originating telex traffic in Britain is for overseas destinations. For the user, the most obvious recent change in telex has been the availability of new terminals. British Telecom now offers two electronic teleprinters, the Puma, a hard-copy machine made by Trend Communications, and the Cheetah, one of the Perfector family made by Standard Telephones & Cables, which includes both hard copy and a visual display screen. Both these terminals allow automatic calling, message editing, storage and other facilities, and as they are quiet they can be used in a normal office. BT can also provide a compact receive-only telex terminal called Sable.

Telex is one of the markets where liberalization could have a major impact. Subscribers will be able to shop more widely for terminals, and several companies are offering different types of equipment. This is not limited to terminals. One British company, Chermikoff Telecommunications, is supplying several users with an automatic telex message-switching system, which can control a variety of telex and telegraph lines, and be linked with 32 separate terminals. Another firm, ATS (Communications), has developed a visual display unit which



Electronic challenge in chess on Prestel: child plays?

is compatible with telex, and a link between office computers and the telex network. Modernization of the network is also under way. At present, telex calls are switched by 51 electromechanical exchanges throughout the country, but these are to be replaced with 11 stored program control (SPC) exchanges. A two-page letter of about 2,000 characters which would take five minutes to send by telex, could travel in only 15 seconds by Teletex. Like modern main exchanges for voice traffic, the SPC telex systems will offer facilities such as short code selection, call redirection, delayed delivery, store and forward, and automatic alternative routing. Despite the improvements being made to telex, it still has some inherent disadvantages.

Messages are in capitals only, and transmission is slow. Hence the concept of Teletex. Unlike the limited keyboard of teletext, Teletex will offer upper and lower case, special symbols, and foreign characters. Built-in memory will allow incoming messages to be stored while outgoing messages are being prepared. And transmission will be far faster than telex. A two-page letter of about 2,000 characters, which would take five minutes to send by telex, could travel in only 15 seconds by Teletex. Accordingly, Teletex will be cheap. BT has not yet spelled out likely charges, but in Germany it has been estimated that while it costs about 16p to send a letter for next-day delivery, and the same message by telex costs 78p, Teletex would cost only 7p - for almost instantaneous transmission. International standards have been agreed for Teletex, and some countries have already started services - notably West

Germany and Sweden. Teletex also has the ability to communicate with telex terminals, giving access to the million or so telex users throughout the world, though only, of course, at telex speeds. Unfortunately, Teletex in Britain seems to be in a classic chicken-and-egg situation. BT hoped to introduce a full national and international service early next year, but is now playing things down because terminals are not available. Terminal manufacturers say they are waiting for modems, and anyway what's the point of offering terminals until there is a service? Meanwhile overseas countries where Teletex has started may gain an advantage. At least one German manufacturer, Triumph Adler, says it is ready to enter the UK market. Meanwhile, for all its shortcomings, it seems that telex has a lot of life left in it yet.

Reuters: growing like Topsy

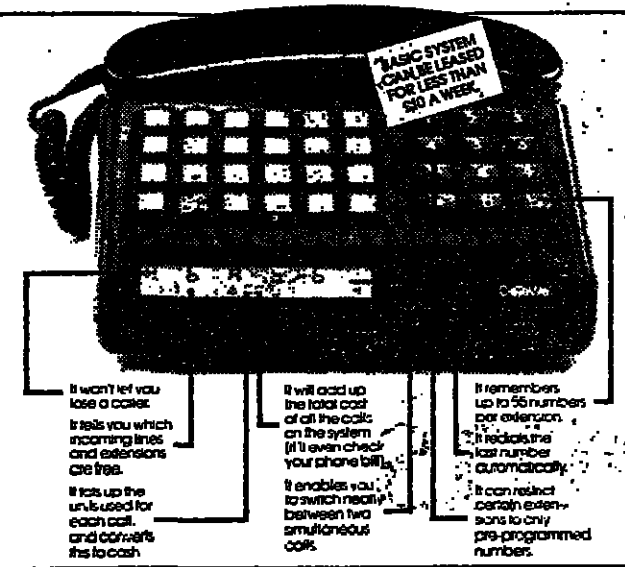
The potential benefits of electronic publishing are easier to spell-out than the immense range of possible activities which it may cover. An obvious example is illustrated in the dramatic change in the fortunes of the Reuters international news agency, which is preparing to go public at an expected value of £500m to £1,500m. The transformation of Reuters from a traditional news agency, unique in its scope of coverage, but operating in tight financial straits, to a growth company is due to a judicious application of electronics to publishing. More than 10 years ago the agency began building a computer-based information network, whereby news reports filed in any part of the world could be routed automatically to any designated combination of subscribers. The next step was to use that network - not so much for general news, but for high-value business information, such as financial market prices, to a wider range of customers. But computer-based systems are not in themselves a magic key, through which riches are guaranteed. For instance, the first Fleet Street paper to replace hot-metal type setting, a manpower-intensive procedure, by electronic photocomposition was the Mirror Group, now up for sale. The Press Association is about to embark on a similar course to Reuters but with a very different approach. From the beginning of next year the PA will be offering only a general output of news from the United Kingdom in a service called Newswire. Subscribers with any Prestel-type of visual data terminal will be able to dial up the service. Reports will be available on Newswire at the same time as they are transmitted over the agency's teletext network to newspapers and broadcasting studios. In addition, subscribers will be able to scan through the current file of the previous six days' stories with the option of calling up the first page, before deciding whether to request a hard copy printout of the entire story. This service brings much closer the day when the customer can create an individually tailored newspaper by choosing items of interest from a list of political, financial, general and sports news, and pressing a button to have them printed out. Another development, judging that idea close to home by the recent introduction by Philips of a television set with a built-in printer. Another example of the marriage of telecommunications, computers and electronics in the publishing field was demonstrated last week in the shape of a new system called the Muirhead Electronic Picture Desk. In the newspaper world the name Muirhead is synonymous with the facsimile transmission of photographs by "wirephoto" from almost any corner of the globe. Its pioneering achievements included the first international transmission of news photographs direct to news-

paper offices via satellite. The event was a Royal tour of South America. The latest Muirhead development has been perfected in conjunction with Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA) for the agency's operations in Frankfurt. Local pictures and pictures received from remote offices by telephone or radio links are converted into a digital format by an electronic scanner and stored on magnetic discs. An operator can then view the pictures on a television monitor, edit them and retransmit them over the network without requiring to work on a photographic copy. According to Muirhead's development engineers, the final quality of a picture should be better than with previous systems because the computer enhances any obvious optical blemishes, and once the image is stored in digital form it is not subjected to successive stages of reproduction. The application of computers and electronics to publishing allows firms to retain existing customers by providing a better service. For instance, newspaper libraries are repositories of an important volume of information. Although those of serious newspapers are crucial sources for researchers in

TERMS TO WATCH
TELEX: International low-speed keyboard-to-keyboard transmission service.
TELETEXT: System for conveying documents via data transmission, for instance between word-processors.
TELETYPE: System for broadcasting information over the air for display on special tv receivers. BBC's service is Ceefax, IBA's service is Oracle.
PRESTEL: BT's national videotext service giving text plus graphics information over public telephone network for display on tv receiver or vdu.
politics, the law, social history and economics they are organized in the main to suit the inquires of journalists. Converting those warehouses of information into the sort of computer-based data bank from which subscribers could extract only those items of intelligence related to their particular need over a telecommunications link is now possible. The practicality of doing it depends on cost, and that in turn depends on how much of the material in the printed archives is to be converted into an electronically manageable form. This is a deliberately narrow look at electronic publishing in order to prevent the subject from becoming too diffuse. But it would be a serious deficiency not to acknowledge the great impact that the Ceefax and Oracle-type services broadcast over the public television networks are having on the ideas of electronic publishing.

Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The phone with all the answers



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TELECOMS

Cable trials

they will come across unwieldy combinations of initials: CSMA/CA and CSMA/CD, for example. They may not be much wiser when it is explained that these stand for Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Avoidance or Collision Detection. But perhaps the most bewildering thing of all is the rash of proprietary networks which manufacturers of computers and other office equipment have introduced. Wang, Z-Net, DECnet, ARCNET, Ecomet - these are just a handful of the LANs being promoted by various companies, and in some cases they have the drawback of giving their best performance only when used with that particular company's equipment.

It was to try to bring some order to the LAN market that Xerox Corporation in the United States introduced Ethernet, with the support of two other American companies - Intel, a leading chip manufacturer, and Digital Equipment, the major manufacturer of minicomputers.

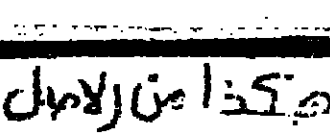
The Xerox plan was to attempt to establish Ethernet as a de facto standard, and the company has been very free with its licensing policy. There are now many companies producing components which meet the Ethernet standard, and several organizations have nailed their colours to the Ethernet mast, not only for office systems, but also for industrial and educational uses. But while Ethernet was promoting its advantages, other moves were under way at more official levels to establish international standards. Local area networks form only part of these plans, which are being carried out by the International Standards Organization under the name Open Systems Interconnection (OSI). OSI has the aim of allowing information to be exchanged between computer systems regardless of manufacture or geographical location. It's a complex business. A reference model of seven layers has been created, with the idea that each layer will build on the one

below to make more advanced facilities available. It will take years before standards are agreed for all seven layers, but LANs are well to the fore. A British-owned company, Digital Microsystems, has more than 500 of its FinNet local networks installed in this country, and there are more than 2,000 FinNet sites operating throughout the world. Rascal-Milgo, which entered the market with a system called Planet last year, announced recently that it now has more than 2,000 communication connections installed for the system, and orders from more than 20 countries. Business valued at £2.5m has been received, and Rascal is planning and commissioning several large systems, with up to 500 devices attached to each one. For once one clears away all the technical jargon and wrangling over standards, the fact that stands out is that LANs represent a very big market indeed. Tim Holley of Rascal-Milgo quotes a forecast by one market research company, IDC, that while there were 3,000 LAN connections in Western Europe at the end of last year, there will be 30,000 by 1984, and 250,000 by 1987.

International standards

But while Ethernet was promoting its advantages, other moves were under way at more official levels to establish international standards. Local area networks form only part of these plans, which are being carried out by the International Standards Organization under the name Open Systems Interconnection (OSI). OSI has the aim of allowing information to be exchanged between computer systems regardless of manufacture or geographical location. It's a complex business. A reference model of seven layers has been created, with the idea that each layer will build on the one

RW



Storm warning for space-age weather news

The simultaneous development of meteorological satellites and powerful computers has improved weather forecasts quite dramatically over the past 20 years. The increased accuracy of medium-range forecasts is particularly striking: today's Met Office predictions four days ahead are as good as those issued for the day after tomorrow when the first American weather satellites were launched in the early 1960s.

However the advance may temporarily be halted or even turn into a retreat over the next three or four years. The growth in computing power is likely to be offset by a deterioration in the quantity and quality of satellite observations.

Europe's present weather satellite, Meteosat 2, was put into geostationary orbit over Africa in 1981; it is expected to stop functioning within a year or so. That would leave an awkward gap until early 1986, when the European Space Agency is due to launch a stop-gap replacement.

This year 17 European nations agreed to spend £250m on a new generation of geostationary weather satellites, to be launched between 1978 and 1990. An international organization called Eumetsat is being created to operate them.

Although Meteosat provides the best continuous observations of the European sector of the globe, the American system of five weather satellites (three geostationary and two polar orbiting) is much more important for worldwide forecasting. Therefore meteorologists are particularly concerned about recent indications that the US Government is looking for big savings in its spending on weather satellites (currently put at \$230m a year).

One threat from Washington is that, unless other countries contribute to the operating costs, one of its two NOAA polar satellites may not be replaced. Good observations of Europe (or any other specific region of the world) would then be made every six rather than every three hours.

Polar satellites, which circle the globe at a height of 800 km, give better visible and infra-red images of clouds than the geostationary craft 36,000 km up. They also give "sounding" data - temperature measurements at different levels of the atmosphere. Their disadvantage

of course, is that they are not on station the whole time.

The Soviet Union is the only other country with polar orbiting weather satellites. It does not make observations from these craft (the Meteor series) available over the world meteorological network, but they are much less useful than the American data.

Surprisingly, the Russians do not yet have a geostationary weather satellite. However Japan has one (called GMS) on station over the Pacific. And the latest member of the club is India: its Insat communications satellite, which NASA recently put into orbit over the Indian Ocean, also carries equipment for meteorological observations.

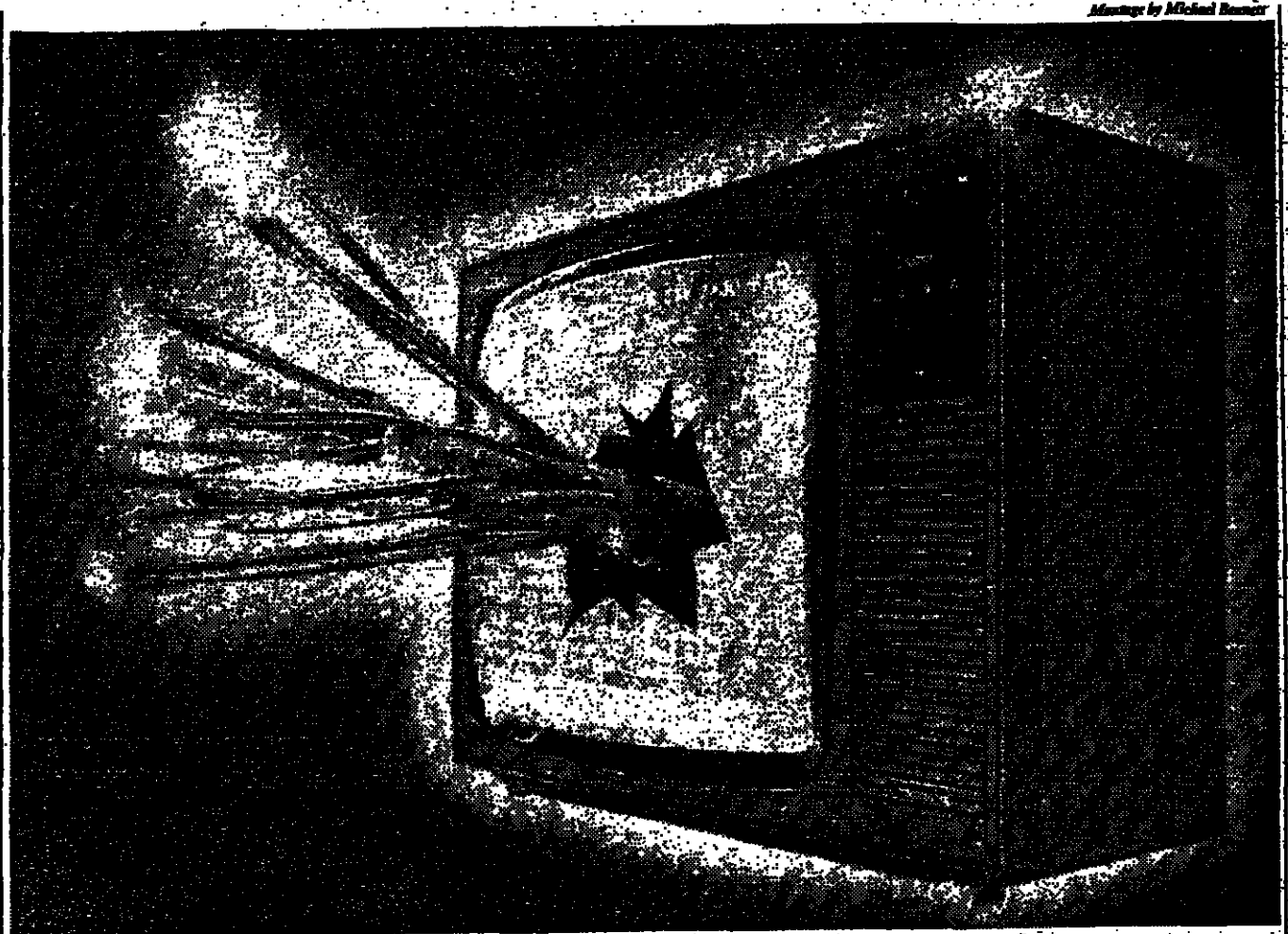
Britain's £14m National Remote Sensing Programme, announced this year, recognizes the point: this country will not build its own satellite (though it will contribute to the European Space Agency's ERS-1 ocean-monitoring craft, due for launch in 1987). Instead the Government's policy is to build a world lead in processing data from other countries' satellites.

For example, the National Remote Sensing Centre (at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough) will build up an archive of images from Spot, the land resources satellite which France hopes to launch early in 1985. Spot will be the major commercial competitor to the American's Landsat non-military remote sensing satellite, and Spot-Image, a company largely owned by the French Government, has been set up to market the data worldwide.

Spot has poor infra-red facilities compared to Landsat, but its ground resolution - 10 metres, is better. That will make Spot more suitable for mapping. But the superior definition brings Spot to a sensitive borderline, for it should be good enough to begin picking out secret military installations.

By the way of comparison, it should be pointed out that since the early 1970s, low-altitude American military satellites have been able to pick out objects 20 centimetres across. Under the circumstances, the Third World's growing mistrust for remote sensing is quite understandable.

Clive Cookson
Technology Correspondent



Will cable pay its way?

Within the next few weeks the Government will be ready to announce the winners of the battle between rival consortiums bidding for the rights to set up the first of a new generation of cable television stations throughout the country. Initially the Home Office and Department of Trade and Industry will decide on the award of 12 interim franchises to operate multi-channel cable television systems from next year.

The applicants include familiar names like Rediffusion, Thorn-EMI and Visionhire, which already operate existing cable networks and powerful candidates like British Telecom and Racal. However, many of the consortiums also include unlikely investors brought in to add "star quality" or local appeal. Thus Ringo Starr, the former Beatle, is involved in the Merseyside Cablevision consortium which is pitching for the Liverpool franchise while Raman Subba Rao, the former England batsman, has joined Croydon Cable.

The early enthusiasm for the new ventures will soon turn to harsh financial reality for those which succeed. It is estimated that it will cost about £30m to put in a complete cable television system to serve 100,000 homes. The gamble is whether British householders are prepared to pay between £6 and £9 (plus vat) each month for a basic cable service which will offer music, sports and general entertainment channels.

Critics argue that half of the homes in Britain will have video cassette recorders within the next two years and may be reluctant to pay for cable television services. Yet American experience shows that cable operators can make money after five or six years and after that British franchises which can last 20 years could easily become licences to print money.

For its part the Government has done all it can to make sure that Britain has the chance to try out the cable television experiment as quickly as possible, and before European rivals begin to cash in on the new markets which will arise. It is estimated that it will cost between £3,000m and £4,000m to recable just half Britain's 20 million homes. The Government is excited about the employment opportunities that will follow. The construction industry alone could benefit from 2,000 new jobs to lay cable in the first instance. Additional

jobs will be created in the cable manufacturing companies such as BICC, STC, Plessey and GEC. After that come jobs in the telecommunications equipment industry, television set companies and among programme makers.

Given the incredible potential offered by the development of the cable television industry, it is remarkable that the subject was essentially a non-issue until the summer of 1981.

Much of the credit for the rapid progress made since then must go to the six-man team of unpaid and largely unknown technology advisers appointed by Mrs Thatcher as her Information Technology Advisory Panel in July 1981. The team which included Mr Michael Aldrich, managing director of Rediffusion Computers and Mr Ivor Cohen, managing director of Mullard, the television set makers, chose to undertake a study of the potential role of cable systems in Britain and the desirability of a big programme of cable installation.

By January 1982 the ITAP report was ready and recommended that the go-ahead should be given for the widespread recabling of Britain as quickly as possible if the full industrial benefits were to be realized. In March a three-man team of inquiry was established under the chairmanship of Lord Hunt to report on the implications of cable for future broadcasting policy. The publication of the Hunt report paved the way for the decision to allocate the 12 interim cable franchises which are up for grabs now, with future franchises to be allocated by a newly established Cable Television Authority which will be created by legislation due to be introduced shortly.

The Government is keen to encourage the recabling of Britain with optical fibres, which use signals transmitted by pulses of light rather than electric current to offer a capacity 11,000 times greater than traditional copper cable of the kind used in most applications at present. But a decision to insist on the installation of optical fibres instead of cable would prove costly in the short term and delay the widespread introduction of cable television.

Consequently the Government will not require the use of optical fibre for some years, preferring instead to wait for commercial pressures to dictate the recabling of Britain. Effectively this means that the most attractive areas of the country will be recabled with optical fibres first in order to build a commercially viable base for further expansion. At the same time British Telecom and Mercury will lay optical fibres on trunk routes, through existing and new ducts, and eventually link the new systems to individual cable networks.

A further development is the expansion of the services provided by the existing cable networks to 2,500,000 homes. Operators like Visionhire and Rediffusion had virtually decided that with little prospect of expanding their cable services there was no future investing in the projects. But with the new-found enthusiasm for cable television those subscribers are being offered new services in more than 100 areas.

Although these existing networks will only be able to carry between four and six channels on their old fashioned copper cable, against a minimum of 25 channels on the new system, which use coaxial cable or optical fibres, the operators do stand an early chance of reestablishing a presence in areas which previously had been neglected.

As the optical fibre manufacturers and cable television companies gear up for the new markets which are emerging from advent of the cable television, some sectors of the industry are already anticipating using the know-how they gain in different areas.

In the meantime the cable manufacturers expect that the rewiring of Britain will have gained full momentum by 1987 as the entertainment-led demand for cable services provided by the new cable television services translates into more widespread demand for each house to be linked to a whole range of information and business services, piped via the new cable networks.



Installing the new generation of telephone lines requires skills closer to microsurgery than to traditional cable laying. In the picture above, British Telecom technician John Crick is joining two pieces of fibre optic cable beside the AS in Bedfordshire. Telecom is laying the latest "monomode" fibre between Luton and Milton Keynes. A pair of these glass strands, each thinner than a hair, carries up to 2,000 phone calls.

Opening the skies to satellites

Although for decades it had been the province of the science fiction writer, the satellite is now the most prominent force in domestic and international telecommunications.

Two important lessons have emerged from the United States where the techniques of satellite communication have been successfully harnessed to transport everything from high speed business data to light television programmes under the "omni-cast" policy of the US Government, but which satellite operators now emphasize little interest from government bureaucracy and instead have been encouraged to develop the most profitable satellite communications markets in the world.

So successful has been the development that even a nervous Europe, protected by their telecommunications industry, has shown signs of learning from the Americans and developing the technology.

The second lesson emanating from the United States is that the satellite industry is an expanding area of telecommunications and is a major source of new jobs. The Space Shuttle is effectively a commercial operation carrying satellite payloads to be placed in orbit.

British manufacturers have not been reticent in responding to the two American lessons, though their progress is extremely modest in relation to that of the United States. However, British Telecom, British Aerospace and GEC-Marconi have formed their own company to exploit the technology on the overseas domestic market. The company, United Satellites, will be responsible for building and operating Britain's satellite for direct broadcasting.

About £85m is spent each year by the British on space projects and over three quarters of that expenditure is funded from the resources of the Department of Trade and Industry and those of the Science and Engineering Research Council - is allocated to projects under the auspices of the European Space Agency (ESA).

The first recent evidence that the telecommunications of Europe and those in the UK are about to be transformed, took place in the second week of this month when the European Communication Satellite ECS-1 became operational. The satellite, launched from Kourou in French Guiana in June on the European space rocket Ariane, will transmit television pictures into Britain (and across Europe where agreements have been made) for reception by operators of cable television networks who in turn will distribute the programmes locally.

Another satellite, ECS-2, is to be launched in the spring of next year and will be the primary satellite carrying the telecommunications circuit for the ESA members. The ECS-1 satellite is the backup satellite for the system and those television channels currently allocated have been done on a preemptive agreement. That is, they will be cut off if ECS-2 fails so that the satellite can be used by the customers of the primary satellite.

Britain is one of the full members of ESA: the others being Belgium, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Austria, Canada and Norway participate in a number of programmes.

The channels of these ESA satellites are allocated by an organization called Intelsat, which represents all the European telecommunication authorities. It was Intelsat which allocated the channels on ECS-1. One channel each was given to Belgium, France, Italy, The Netherlands and Switzerland with two allocated each to West Germany and the UK. A third ECS satellite is expected to be launched in about 1985.

Britain is also one of the 109 nations, members of Intelsat (International Telecommunication Organization) which is responsible for coordinating the world's intercontinental and on some occasions domestic telecommunications using a network of 17 satellites placed in orbit above the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. All communication satellites are placed in a "geostationary" orbit about 22,300 miles above the surface of the earth which gives the craft the appearance of standing still in space.

Intelsat, using the Ariane rocket this month launches a series of Intelsat satellites. These two-ton satellites, called Intelsat V, are capable of carrying the equivalent of 12,000 telephone lines. Now more than 50 per cent of the world's international telecommunications traffic is carried by the satellites of the Intelsat network. Maritime communication is also carried by the network.

In 1981 an agreement was signed between Intelsat and the International Maritime Organization (Immarsat) for the lease of maritime communication channels.

Immarsat has made agreements for maritime satellites with the American company

Agreements fixed for maritime satellites

Comsat for three satellites over the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and the European Space Agency for craft over the Atlantic and Intelsat for satellites above the Pacific and the Indian Oceans.

But it is the ESA which is spearheading the European satellite drive, although there are independent national projects, principally in the area of direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS).

In the last ten years more than a dozen scientific satellites have been launched by the agency but it is the application satellites - telephony, data transfer and television - which are coming to the fore. In the last three years the satellite projects have included Meteosat-2 (meteorology), Marecs (maritime communications), Siro-2 (earth observation) and ECS-1 (communications), also L-sat, the largest communication satellite to be built in Europe, is due for launch in 1986. The project which is expected to cost over £150m will have a £77m British contribution.

The French are due to launch two satellites called Telecom 1 next year. These are expected to carry telephony and television signals. The German Deutsche Bundespost has two satellite launches planned for 1986 and 87. The spacecraft will be used principally to carry television pictures.

The major British project is the Uplink direct broadcasting satellite, due for launch in 1986 carrying two BBC channels. The project, expected to cost over £150m, is still a subject of heated political debate. The debate centres around the philosophy of DBS.

BJ

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The dreams riding on Ariane

On Tuesday the seventh Ariane rocket of the European Space Agency was launched placing an Intelsat-5 communications satellite into orbit. The event marked the first time a European launcher has carried a US-built payload, and served notice that Europe is ready to challenge the Americans' near-monopoly of space delivery technology.

Just over four months ago the sixth Ariane rocket placed two satellites, ECS-1 (European Communications Satellite-1) and Amsat (Amateur satellite) into a geosynchronous orbit 36,000 kilometres above ground. The relief and jubilation of the multinational team of designers and engineers at the tropical launch site at Kourou, in French Guiana, was equal to that of the American space technologists when the United States reusable space shuttle, STS-1, made its first flight from Cape Canaveral.

True, the launches from Kourou attracted a briefer attention from British press and broadcasting services than they would have probably devoted to an expectant panda at London Zoo. But the dreams and aspirations of hundreds of French, German, Dutch, Italian and Belgian scientists and engineers were riding on Ariane L-6 and L-7. For instance, more than 40 manufacturers from 11 countries provided the rocket engines, electronics and thousands of other components needed for each vehicle.

More important, the failure

of the fifth launch in September last year was a heart-breaking setback. That flight was intended to demonstrate through Ariane to the increasing number of countries wanting their own satellite for communications, navigation and weather forecasting that they had a wider choice than the United States and Russia from which to obtain a launch vehicle.

Any competitor to the United States and Russia faces the problem of selling against the vast wealth of technical knowledge accumulated over 20 years. Although the space era opened formally in 1957 with the launch of Sputnik 1, satellite communications turned from theory to practice in 1965 when an 85 pound fledgling known as Early Bird soared from Cape Canaveral to relay up to 240 telephone calls and a television channel across the Atlantic.

Early Bird was built with a life of 18 months. But four years after launch, when a satellite of the new generation of a relay station failed, Early Bird was reactivated to broadcast to more than 500 million people the investiture of the Prince of Wales.

One of the many sources of potential failure lies in the vibration of the rocket at lift-off and at the early stage of flight when the engines are generating maximum thrust. Meticulous precautions are taken to protect satellites from vibration damage.

Rocket launchers are the workhorses of the space programme, and the Ariane series is not the first collaborative European venture. However, the decision to press ahead with the current programme was taken in 1973 after various surveys forecast that by the early 1990s more than 180 satellites would be placed in geosynchronous orbit for communications and direct broadcasting, including 24 for Europe, and many others would be launched for other applications.

Orders for 24 satellites and options for another 15 are worth £36m.

Although there are 11 countries participating in the Ariane project, the largest contribution of 64 per cent comes from France, with Germany providing another 20 per cent. The total cost of development to completion of the first seven launches is over £500m.

After the test flights of Ariane, the European Space Agency has approved the principle of transferring to an organization called Arianespace responsibility for production and marketing of launchers. Arianespace was formed three years ago and its principal shareholders include 36 European aerospace firms, 11 European banks and the French national space agency, CNES,

where the designs for Ariane originated. Arianespace has a capital of more than £12m, subscribed by shareholders in the 11 countries.

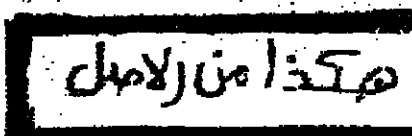
The transition from the European Space Agency to Arianespace was planned for completion by 1984, after which launches would be conducted on a strictly commercial basis.

Arianespace has already taken firm orders for launching 24 satellites and options have been taken out on 15 more, making an order book worth more than £360m. The prospects for using space techniques are influenced by the economic considerations defined most simply as the cost of placing one kilogram of payload in orbit. At the time of Early Bird that cost was about £2,500.

Clearly, useful payloads weigh in many times more than that and the target is to cut costs by about one-hundredth of the early launches. Arianespace can place a satellite of about 4,500 kilograms in geosynchronous orbit, or two payloads of equivalent weight.

Despite a perfectly acceptable start to its career by comparison with other launchers, such as those which form the workhorses of the American stable (Atlas Centaur had five failures in the first eight launches and Titan three failures in six launches), no indulgence was shown to Ariane when it failed. Unfortunately that was the penalty of being a relative newcomer.

PW



Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-537 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 691.0 up 12.6 FT 100 Index 432.03 up 5.45...

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.4985 down 20pts Index 83.3m unchanged...

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9 Discount market loans week fixed 9...

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$390pm \$385.75 close \$393 (\$262.25)

TODAY

Interims: Blueland Bros, William Cook & Sons (Sheffield), Midsummer Inns...

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Breville Europe, Angel Hotel, Guildford, Surrey (11.00), Deborah Services, 27/28 Lovat Lane, EC3 (11.30)...

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Japanese Government is expected to adopt a comprehensive economic package today, intended to improve the nation's strained trade relations...

Bank Governor offers no protection from foreign competition Market forces will determine future of the Stock Exchange

Competitive pressures will play a big part in determining how the Stock Exchange evolves, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday.

SE removes overseas rates

The new rules say that international dealers, which can be formed by jobbers and brokers alike, must be incorporated as limited liability companies...

New rules to cover takeover advice

The way in which the Office of Fair Trading gives confidential guidance to companies on whether takeover bids can hope to escape a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference is to be confined within strict guidelines.

BTG may opt for buyouts

The Government is considering selling parcels of share stakes owned by British Technology Group to the companies own managements as one of a series of options to wind down BTG's investment role.

Reuters sell-off 'going well'

Lord Mathews, chairman of Fleet Holdings, publisher of the Daily Express and Sunday Express, said yesterday that the proposed Reuters flotation was going "very well".

Insurers attack 'unfair' European advantage Allianz bid angers UK firms

The Allianz bid for Eagle Star yesterday raised the hackles of British insurers, who are severely restricted from business in West Germany - and coincidence with a survey from the Committee on Invisible Exports on trade barriers.

City Editor's Comment

Lording over the monopolies law

Lord Cockfield is dead. Long live Lord Cockfield. It would be a trusting industrialist indeed who reached any other conclusion than this after reading the latest ministerial pronouncement on completion policy yesterday.

Plea for risk-takers

An outspoken plea for more help and encouragement for investors was made last night by Sir Nicholas Goodison, Stock Exchange chairman, at the Mansion House.

Cars and drink boom boosts spending

Record car buying and a big jump in beer sales during the summer heatwave helped push up consumer spending by 0.5 per cent in the third quarter, an increase of 3.5 per cent compared with the same period last year according to provisional estimates from the Government.



Morton: "no difference" to Moorside deal

Boardroom row at Guinness Peat

A long-standing non-executive director of Guinness Peat has resigned after a boardroom disagreement over the terms of Guinness Peat's latest deal.

Shares rally after losses

New York (AP - Dow Jones) - Shares held their gains in a modest rebound in early trading yesterday after two days of losses.

WALL STREET

Mr Metz expects a rising tendency toward "risk aversion" with people focusing on solid growth and earnings rather than on the more speculative stocks.

NET ASSETS UP £80 MILLION SINCE MARCH 1983

Total net assets increased from £947m to £1,027m (+8.4%) in six months to 31st August. Over 1,000,000 new shares issued in this period to meet international investors' demand.

Advertisement for Rorento, a fixed interest-based trust designed for investors interested in high yields over the longer term. Includes contact information and a form for requesting a report.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

William Low & Co Year 23.9m to 33.83 Pretax profit 23.9m (£3.3m) Stated earnings 35.57p (£3.14p) Turnover £118.8m (£119.8m) Net dividend 8.6p (8p)

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK edited by Michael Prest

Gold loses lustre as income prospect

Gold's \$4 fall yesterday to just below \$390 an ounce gave an ironic counterpart to the gold mine results from Anglo American's properties.

The aftertax profits of the mines were a mixed bag, the most notable feature being the sharp fall for the quarter from R107, (63.5m) to R82m at the mighty Vaal Reek.

But with the evidence of Gemcor and Barlow Rand, it is clear that nobody is likely to buy South African gold mines for income at the moment.

The final dividends were Free State Geduld 215 cents, President Brand 220 cents, President Steyn 255 cents, and Western Holdings 325 cents.

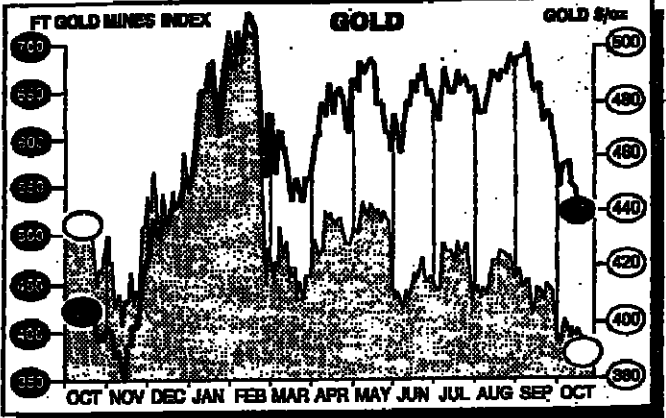
Only the first of these was higher than for the same period last year. Gold mine yields are averaging about 8 per cent, a far cry from the heady days when investors expected to see a full return on their capital in five years.

More than that, there is little prospect for several months of the mines raising their income much faster than inflation.

The latest figures are the first to incorporate the wages increases which came into effect on July 1, and prices increases generally are still running much faster in the republic than the authorities would like.

The drought - which may have eased - has not directly hurt output, but the huge cost of keeping water flowing to the power stations can be expected, given the Electricity Supply Commission's record, to be reflected in customers' bills soon.

Capital expenditure on shaft sinking and underground development is still considerable.



FT GOLD MINES INDEX GOLD GOLD \$/oz OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Against that, the mines benefit - indeed are saved - by the depreciation of the Rand. Thus, the average gold price received by Anglo's Free State mines in the quarter to the end of last month was 23 per cent higher at R15,405 a kilogramme even though the dollar bullion price declined.

The state has a particular interest in floating the Rand because it preserves tax income from the mines, especially those which have high marginal tax rates. Meanwhile, the Rand should appreciate against the dollar when the gold price rises.

On balance, however, mine profits will be determined by the gold price rather than anything the mines can directly influence themselves.

To their credit, cost increases have been contained to about 7 per cent in the recent quarter. But gold shares still seem to be rated on a gold price of \$450, and despite the sharp fall in the gold mines index may still weaken further.

Whichever view one takes, gold shares are only attractive at the moment for capital gains.

pretty academic and do not need much analysis while it is sitting on oil discoveries through its one third interest in the consortium with Gulf and Unionoil Ireland.

If the next well is a disaster things may look rather different. Until then, it is high risk, high reward stuff.

Ironically Atlantic Resources is still suffering from over-capacity in the gas market and it is likely to be next year before gas is sold at a satisfactory rate in the US.

Appraisal work on oil discoveries requires extra finance, but the company says there will be no call on shareholders. The jump in losses stems largely from higher interest charges.

Quest Automation Half-year to 30.8.83 Pretax Loss £2515,000 (£385,000) Turnover £2395,000 (£234,000) Share price \$45p

Even allowing for natural optimism on the part of the Irish, the real prospect of self-sufficiency in oil from the finds in the Celtic Sea is being taken seriously in London.

But until the appraisal wells have been drilled and the field proven, the market is likely to remain a speculative trading one.

Analysts in London like what they have seen so far but want to see more before they make a final judgement.

Atlantic Resources discovery in Block 49/9 in August is expected to be followed by another quite soon - probably this year, if the Gulf drill ship moves straight on to the next location.

also announced yesterday, show an extraordinary debit of £1.7m from losses on unsecured loanstock issued in exchange for assets transferred to Quest CAE.

Quest CAE became an associate company last February but was subsequently placed in receivership after a row with the investor who put cash into it.

Sound Diffusion Sound Diffusion's business appears to be set on such an astonishing growth track that it is a wonder no other company has followed its recipe for renting sound, catering and laundry equipment.

Pretax profits in the first half of this year rose from £1.4m to £2.3m and look set to top £5m for 1983 as a whole against £3.25m last time.

The company is reticent about the amount of new rental business it is likely to win this year, now that the sales force has grown to 100 - 50 per cent higher than a year ago.

Current results come nowhere near reflecting the huge growth in new, high quality rental business.

The order book is much bigger than all last year's installation work put together. But the real boost for Sound Diffusion begins to materialize in 1985, when a number of big rental contracts revert from lease back to the company's own account.

The company's shares - up a further 7p to 108p yesterday - sell at a remarkable 32 times likely 1983 untaxed earnings and yield a tiny 0.3 per cent.

Results for the previous year, Quest Automation Half-year to 28.2.83 Pretax loss £3.5m (Loss £2.5m) Stated loss 24.97p (£1.99p) Turnover £11.4m (£10.1m) Net total dividend nil p (Nil p)

Quest Automation, the computer aided design group, at last seems to have put the unhappy experiences of the last few months behind it, with a return to profit in the first six months of the year.

The improvement in pretax results comes after a sharp reduction in research and development expenditure from £855,000 to £132,000.

Results for the previous year, Quest Automation Half-year to 31.8.83 Pretax profit £38,000 (Loss £1.7m) Turnover £3.7m (£5.1m) Share price 20p, up 2p

WALL STREET

Table with columns for company names, stock prices, and financial data. Includes entries like American Express, Bank of America, etc.

The Fleming Japanese Investment Trust plc

The company's policy is to specialise in investment in Japan aiming to achieve the best overall return to shareholders which will be attained largely through capital growth.

Table with columns: Highlights of the year to 31st July, 1983, 1982, % change. Rows: Total Assets, Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share, Ordinary Share Price.

97% of total assets are now invested in Japan. The expectation of strong corporate profit performance together with the outlook for the Japanese economy, currency and stockmarket over the next year justifies the company's geared exposure to the market.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts are available from Granby Registration Services, Bourne House, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TU.

Table of COMMODITIES prices including LONDON COMMODITY PRICES, COPPER, SUGAR, and various metals.

Blasted Heath advertisement featuring a cartoon by Michael Heath and The Spectator logo.

Conran Associates Marketing by design advertisement with logo and contact information.

TELEFUSION plc advertisement with financial results and company information.

Western Mining Corporation Holdings Limited advertisement with financial details and options information.

Gerrard & National INTERIM STATEMENT advertisement with financial performance details.

BE OUR AGENT advertisement for LANCEL PARIS with contact details.

Vertical text on the right edge: Lord Ezi elected BSI chief

Handwritten text at the bottom center: 523 من الاموال

APPOINTMENTS

Lord Ezra elected BSI chief

British Standards Institution: Lord Ezra has been elected president, to succeed Sir Frederick Warner who is retiring.

Reed International: Mr Colin Barker has become a non-executive director from November 1. He succeeds Mr Howard Macdonald who is taking up a post as chairman and chief executive of Dome Petroleum.

The Post Office: Mr Bryan Roberts has been made director of the Postal Pay and Grading Department.

More O'Ferrall: Mr Peter Hall, group company secretary, is joining the board from November 1.

A. I. Industrial Products: Mr David Valentine has become group managing director.

Richards Hogg International: Mr John R. Abern will be admitted into partnership from November 1.

Imperial Continental Gas Association: Mr Ebenezer Gutt, Mr Jim L. Stretch and Mr Brian H. Wilmot have been appointed directors. Mr Gutt is a partner in Simont, Gutt & Simont, Brussels and is a director of Contibel SA and UNERG SA. Mr Stretch remains director of oil operations IC Gas and managing director of Century Power and Light. Mr Wilmot retains his appointment as group financial controller of IC Gas.

Allied Breweries Management Services: Mr Mike Connolly has been appointed sales and marketing director.

Newman Industries: Mr Robert Crawford has become a non-executive director and will represent the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution, the main shareholder. Mr David Dunn has been appointed finance director from December 1. Mr Derek Whittaker has been made an executive director from November 1 and will become chairman of the engineering division and Newman Electric Motors.

United Cable Programmes: The following appointments have been made: Mr P. H. Taylor, marketing and sales controller; Mr A. N. Singer, head of acquisitions, programme department; Mr N. J. Lake, head of programme planning and Mr D. J. Chapman, traffic and operations manager.

Clive Cookson on increasing transatlantic competition to provide financial news

Screen challenge for Reuters' market information service



Data bank: Reuter monitor screens at the Bank of America in London

Telerate, the New York-based but British-owned financial news, is making an increasingly aggressive push into the non-American markets dominated by its leading rival, Reuters.

The latest move is the appointment of Telerate's senior marketing executive, Mr John Jessup, to take charge of its drive into Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Mr Jessup, a former Reuters journalist and salesman who switched sides in 1978, becomes managing director of the new British subsidiary of AP-Dow Jones/Telerate.

This partnership, owned 49.9 per cent by Telerate and 25.05 per cent each by the Associated Press and Dow Jones, has been established to sell Telerate services outside North America. It supersedes an arrangement that gave Dow Jones exclusive distribution rights.

The growing transatlantic competition makes some City analysts doubt the valuations of £1,000m or even £1,500m being bandied about for Reuters' proposed stockmarket floatation (leaving aside the question of whether its owners can agree on a formula for the sale).

There are significant differences in the style and content the companies offer

For Reuters to justify a ten-figure price tag, there must be a good prospect of its achieving £200m pretax profits with a very few years. Last year's figure was £36.7m, compared with £16.7m in 1981. Reasonable estimates for 1983 and 1984 would be £55m and £80m respectively. So, a valuation of around £750m could perhaps be justified - 28 times this year's prospective taxed earnings.

On the other hand, £1,000m for Reuters seems almost modest in comparison with the \$900m (£600m) capitalization achieved by Telerate when it was floated on the New York Stock Exchange in April. That was more than 50 times the past year's earnings.

Since then Telerate stock has held close to the \$20m offer price. However, shares in Exco, the London financial group which owns 51.5 per cent of Telerate, have slid from their springtime peak of 75p to about 54p. At that level Exco's total capitalization is no more than the value of its Telerate stake. (British and Commonwealth Shipping holds another 13.3 per cent of Telerate.)

Telerate's most recent results showed net income up 76 per cent to \$13.9m for the nine months to June 30. Revenues were 60 per cent higher at \$47.1m.

Reuters still has a much more extensive information network than Telerate. Indeed, it is said to have the second largest communications system in the world, after the American Department of Defence.

Counting terminals, Reuters' worldwide total of 34,000 compares with Telerate's 11,000. In North America, Telerate leads by about 8,000 to 6,000.

On Reuters' home ground, London, Telerate already has 1,250 terminals; Britain is Telerate's largest market after the United States. Mr Jessup said: "I think we have all the merchant banks in London, except one."

Although each regards the other as its main competitor, there are significant differences in style and content between the

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services offered on the Telerate Network and the Reuter Monitor. Many institutions have both terminals.

Telerate's range is considerably narrower and is still based largely on the American financial markets. It competes directly with Reuters on US bonds, money market and foreign exchange quotations. Reuters remains unchallenged in fields such as commodities, Eurobonds and share prices.

Of course, several other organizations on both sides of the Atlantic disseminate computerized financial information on a more limited scale. Exel, Datastream and the Stock Exchange (Topic) are London's main examples.

But Reuters and Telerate executives believe that their core services are safe from serious penetration by third parties. "I think Reuters and we have such a big head start in the markets we serve that it will be extremely difficult for more competitors to come along," Mr Jessup said.

The reasoning behind this apparent complacency is that Reuters and Telerate have sewn

In North America Telerate leads by 8,000 terminals to Reuters' 6,000

up the most important information sources in their markets. They get their key financial data free from clients, who receive a comprehensive information service in return. As Telerate's London Broker Grievson Grant, put it in a recent circular: "The customer would have to obtain some very significant advantage to want to contribute to a third system and have a third terminal on his desk."

If the smaller vendors cannot compete head-on with the big two, they are likely instead to make cooperative arrangements that would allow them to disseminate their information on to Telerate or Reuters network. Quotron, the main source of American share prices, already works in this way with Telerate.

Grievson Grant estimates that Telerate and Reuters have penetrated only 20 to 30 per cent of the potential market for financial news terminals. If that is true, if profit margins per terminal continue to fatten, and if all would-be competitors fail to overcome the information supply barrier, the Reuters/Telerate bubble may grow rather than burst.

Table with 3 columns: United States, Outside United States, Worldwide. Rows show terminal counts for 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 (estimate).

Financial notebook Consternation over US state of limbo

President Reagan has had 1,000 days in the White House. But America's closest allies are not at all certain who is in charge on economic and trade issues.

At this critical point in the Administration - when uncertainty abounds over the President's plans and forthcoming elections - there is no one person or group of persons other than Mr Reagan apparently able to take a firm decision on the more pressing matters of the day.

The erratic dollar, continuing high interest rates, the high United States budget deficits, East-West trade tensions, growing protectionism in the steel and car industries among others, and conflicts with the European Community are some of the unresolved problems which remain persistent worries despite the American recovery.

Indeed, the only person who has direct, albeit independent, authority, to alter the course of the economy is Mr Paul Volcker, the veteran chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, America's central bank.

Given the stalemate between Congress and the Administration over fiscal policy, and the lack of movement in the Administration on other substantive issues, Mr Volcker's economic show is the only one in town playing to sell-out audiences.

Every utterance of the tall, bespectacled central bank chairman is dissected for some sign of a shift in policy which will drive interest rates up or down over the next year and a half. Monetary policy is expected to be the only discernible policy until after the presidential elections.

This state of limbo is cause for consternation not only among American's political and financial rank and file but also among her closest allies. Her allies fear that a year and a half of inaction on these pressing problems could harm their own chances for sound, durable recoveries.

A high-level British official arrived in Washington recently and was taken by embassy specialists before by talks with members of the Reagan Cabinet not to expect anything of a substantive nature.

"I was told that nothing is going to happen until after the 1984 elections. Can this be true?" he asked. The answer was unhappily "yes".

Some Administration officials will even admit this in private conversation. "We're already operating on an election schedule. The White House is focused on the election and that's what matters," a US Treasury official said recently.

Without a firm "go" from the White House, the rest of the Washington bureaucracy is virtually paralyzed. This is particularly true in the economic and trade area.

Mr Martin Feldstein, the President's chief economic adviser, is reportedly on his way out.

Mr William Brock, the Trade Representative, and his staff of specialists have been thrust into an internal power struggle with the Commerce Department which has left their status unclear.

The apparent winner in this struggle to merge the commerce and trade functions into one super agency was Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the Commerce Secretary, but he has made clear that he is a loyal soldier who does what he is told by the White House.

And where is Mr David Stockman, the formerly visible director of the Office of Management and Budget, whose staff is already gearing up for work on the 1985 federal budget?

Confusion in the Administration has power to take a decision it is Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary. But he is already campaigning for the President with a back-breaking schedule which leaves little time for other matters.

In the end, what all the confusion points to is the need for some pre-election transitional group or mechanism with authority to keep matters rolling along while others are preoccupied with the election.

The Administration is attempting to fashion such a group in the foreign policy area, with particular focus on the Middle East. A similar group in the economic and trade area would also be helpful.

Bailey Morris

Large financial table with multiple columns containing data for various authorized units and insurance funds, including names, values, and dates.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

N Sea shakeout forecast

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin, Oct 17, Dealings end, Oct 28, Contango Day, Oct 31, Settlement Day, Nov 7.

It looks as though the bubble is about to burst for many of our smaller oil exploration companies.

According to a report out today, the number of companies involved in exploration for North Sea oil has reached a peak and is likely to decline sharply over the next few years as the industry undergoes a major restructuring.

Mr Martin Lovegrove, an independent consultant who now works for James Capel, the broker, predicts a "major shakeout" over the next three to six years among the 240 companies with interests in North Sea licences.

"Companies will be taken over or merged, while some will either go bankrupt or just leave", he says. "Much of this activity will be centred around the matching of tax shelters with exploration and development expenditures", he adds.

BP's recent decision to auction part of its stake in the Forties Field highlights the need for companies to have the right tax balance, and more deals can be expected.

Mr Lovegrove reckons the main casualties will be the

smaller companies with no taxable production. After its initial heavy investment of the 1970's the oil industry is now earning \$4,000m a year. This year will be the peak in real terms for earnings, declining gradually thereafter unless the

Elsewhere, the rest of the equity market was staging a long awaited technical rally as a few buyers appeared on the scene after a considerable absence. The FT Index has its best session for four months closing 12.5 up at 691.0.

The threat of cheap overseas imports still exists, despite the latest efforts of the European Community. But overseas there are signs of recovery for BCL, although conditions remain difficult. For the present year brokers are looking for pretax profits of nearer £130m.

American investors appear to have warmed to the prospect of a US quote for shares of BSR, the equities components group. Yesterday one broker was actively bidding for 2.5 million shares (2.5 per cent) and appears to have met with some success. The shares closed 12p higher at 165p.

There also seems to have been second thoughts about the plight of Blue Circle Industries following the devaluation of the Mexican peso recently. Yesterday the shares jumped 12p to 415p after a period of sluggishness as several brokers buying orders caught jobbers on the hop.

The market is expected to give a warm welcome to shares of Logica, Europe's biggest software group. Yesterday broker Hoare Govett and merchant banker Close Bros completed the underwriting of the 10.4 million shares without trouble. The shares should be struck at about 175p compared with the minimum tender price of 140p.

one famous broker has been heavy buyers of the shares.

Shares of A. J. Worthington (Holdings) the textile group advanced 7p to 30p. Earlier this week Michael Hardland, the financial services group, bought an extra 194,000 shares taking its stake up to 277,000 shares, or 13 per cent of the total.

Francis Industries, the engineering group, improved 5p to 77p on the news Suter had stepped up its interest in the company with the purchase of 795,000 shares. It now owns 1.89 million shares, or 17.1 per cent of the total. Asked if Suter would eventually make a full bid a spokesman said: "We have just increased our stake at this stage. I wouldn't comment any further."

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Investment Office now owns 2.2 million shares in Powell Duffry amounting to 5.62 per cent of the issued equity. Shares of Powell rose 1p to 244p.

The London Trust has reduced its holding in Myson Group with the sale of 2 million shares. It now owns 4.29 million shares (8.4 per cent). Myson held steady at 51p.

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for company name, issue type, and price.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for fund name, price, and change.

MEDICINES table with columns for company name, price, and change.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for country, price, and change.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for authority name, price, and change.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for bank name, price, and change.

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES table with columns for company name, price, and change.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for company name, price, and change.

Table of company prices and changes (A-E).

Table of company prices and changes (F-I).

Table of company prices and changes (J-M).

Table of company prices and changes (N-Q).

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THE TIMES 1000 1982/1983 The World's Top Companies

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Handwritten text at the bottom of the page.

FOOTBALL: SLEEPLESS NIGHTS LIE IN WAIT FOR LIVERPOOL, HAMBURG AND RANGERS

Crowned heads of Europe nod into the arms of Morpheus

Cracks have appeared in the security systems of the traditional European Cup trophies. For the last decade the most prized Continental trophy has been kept within the vaults of England and West Germany but both of their representatives, Liverpool and particularly Hamburg, were caught off guard on Wednesday night.

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent
slumber during a second-round tie that was held up for three minutes, they must now score four times without reply at home to Dynamo Dresden, and yet they and Liverpool may be inspired by memories that are still fresh.

Rangers return looking frail

By Hugh Taylor
Considering the tribulations which have afflicted him in a traumatic season, John Greig was surprisingly philosophical in the latest calmness to descend on Rangers and blight their hopes of winning the European Cup Winners' Cup tie with the impressive FC Porto.

Authoritative Miss Durie takes chances to reach last eight

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Susan Barker and Joanna Durie, Britain's last challengers for the singles title, have produced exciting performances on consecutive days at the Wimbledon tournament at the Brighton Centre. Yesterday it was Miss Durie's turn. She took only 56 minutes to win 6-4, 6-1 against an experienced, beefy left-hander from Switzerland, Petra Delhees.



Joyous Catherine Tanvier. (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Jausovec. The difference yesterday lay largely in the fact that Miss Jausovec played three hours and 40 minutes of singles and doubles the previous day, eventually succumbing to some back muscles, yet was on court again - physically and tactically inhibited - less than 13 hours after she had left it.

Why the sky-blue strip of Manchester has a McNeill tartan border The citizens may yet come to praise the still ambitious Caesar

When Peter Swales met Billy McNeill in Carlisle a few months ago in his search for Manchester City's fifth manager in almost as many years, the talk inevitably turned to the question of money for the purchase of new players in the second division - or, rather, the now embarrassing lack of it.

Cups and five League Cups, he retains a reaching belief that to any sensible player the game is more important than the money. "Maybe the money matters but there has to be a balance." That he himself left Celtic on financial differences was untypical.



McNeill: a trump card called patience

Cattlin not to be drawn on Melia resignation

Brighton are unlikely as yet to appoint a manager to succeed Jimmy Melia, who resigned on Wednesday five months after leading them to the FA Cup final. The chief coach, Chris Cattlin, will have full responsibility for team selection and playing staff, but will not be given the manager's title.

The lonely road from Brentford for Harris

Ron Harris has lost his job as player-coach at Brentford, a few days after leading the third division club's Milk Cup challenge against Liverpool, the champions.

Eastoe's goal is in vain

Peter Eastoe, on loan from West Bromwich, scored his first goal for Leicester City in a 1-1 draw with Doncaster Rovers on Saturday at Carrow Road.

GOLF Ballesteros falls prey to trigger-happy hunters

From a Special Correspondent, Malaga
Very nearly finished the year in the lead, the early seventies Tony Jacklin had to put up with the distraction of enthusiastic but in the golfing sense, uneducated photographers, especially when he played on the continent. Now they have a new target - Severiano Ballesteros.

CRICKET Roberts will miss first Test

Kanpur (Reuters) - Andy Roberts, the West Indies fast bowler, strained a back muscle during practice yesterday and will miss the first Test against India, which starts today.



Roberts: back injury

Boycott saga continues Full speed ahead

Worcestershire have not ruled out the possibility of offering Geoff Boycott, who has been dismissed by the county cricket committee discussing signing Boycott during a meeting lasting three hours 40 minutes, on Wednesday evening.

Writ in lieu of written word

By Paul Newman
Don Masson, dismissed as manager of Kettering, is planning to sue the Alliance Premier League club for what he claims has been a breach of contract. The former Notts County and Tottenham midfielder, who was appointed manager only six months ago, claims he has a verbal agreement with the Kettering chairman, John Murphy, who admits he did not have a written contract.

Outlook for Cowans is brighter

Gordon Cowans, the Aston Villa and England midfielder player, who is recovering from a broken leg, hopes to play reserve team football by early December. Villa, who gained an impressive 2-2 UEFA Cup draw against Moscow Spartak, learnt on their return from the Soviet Union that Cowans was making better progress than expected after breaking his right leg in a pre-season game in Spain.

Wednesday's results

Table with 2 columns: Division and Results. Includes Premier League, First Division, Second Division, and various cup matches.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with 2 columns: Sport and Details. Includes Football, Boxing, Ice Hockey, and Rugby League.

York in the black
York City, who narrowly missed promotion from the Soviet Union last season, yesterday announced a profit of 29,252 for the year ended June 30.

RACING: DICKINSON TO COMPLETE DOUBLE WITH FORMER IRISH STEEPLECHASER

The Mighty Mac set to show old zest again

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

After a spring, summer and autumn spent flat racing, watching some high-class jumping at Newbury this afternoon will be like a breath of fresh air.

Four of the races have been sponsored, with pride of place going to the Glynwed International Steeplechase.

Observe with this race 12 months ago when it was known as the Hermitage Steeplechase. On that occasion he carried 10st 7lb. Now he has to jump 12st and he will be meeting Dramatist, who finished third to him last year on 35lb worth terms to three and a half lengths.

The Dickinson magic already appears to have worked wonders because The Mighty Mac looked something like his old self at Market Rasen a week ago when he won by 20 lengths.

That race will have done him a power of good and it should give him a fitness edge over those who have not had the season as far as peak fitness is concerned. Besides Dramatist, Fulke Walwyn is also saddling Everet who could be a factor in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup here in a month's time.

David Nicholson won the Hedges Hurdle last year with Balanchine who had good form on the flat. Now he has chosen the same occasion to launch a similar sort of horse on his jumping career. Society Boy won the Churchill Stakes at Ascot in June and ran well in a classic trial at Newmarket before that.

Leander Blue, Boreen Daw, Greenwood Lad and Mr Foodbrock look the pick of the runners for the Embassy Premier Steeplechase (Qualifier). Boreen Daw, my selection, won his first race last season, thus showing that he comes to hand easily. He also finished second in the Arkle Challenge Trophy at Cheltenham in March.

Flat racing continues at Doncaster where Henry Cecil introduces a well-bred newcomer Claude Monet in the first division of the Wheatley Park Stakes. Claude Monet, by the American Triple Crown winner Affirmed and out of Madella, who won the French 1,000 Guineas and Oaks in her heyday.

It was announced yesterday that, in accordance with the Jockey Club's policy, that race should close early to the time of running to allow developing and improving horses the opportunity to enter the stewards have approved the Flat Race Pattern Committee's recommendations that all early-closing pattern races in 1984 should close between six and eight weeks before running.

Cauthen reaches century in style

By Michael Seely

Steve Cauthen continued his golden 1984 by landing a double for Ian Balding on Insular and Elegant Air at Newbury yesterday. The victory of Elegant Air in the Royal Hill Stakes gave the 23-year-old American jockey his 100th winner of the season and his 407th since his arrival in this country, five years ago.

About an hour earlier Cauthen had also gained his first win in the Royal colours when riding Insular in the Great Western Stakes.

As Chris McCarron and Cash Assmus had shown at Sandown on Wednesday, all American riders are superb judges of pace. And now the same invincible time clock operated in Cauthen's hands as he gave a masterly exhibition of waiting in front on both horses.

Elegant Air looked like being beaten for a few strides below the distance as Walter Swinburn launched his attack on My Volga. Balding had given the jockey a resolution and stadium. Paul Mallon's Shirley Heights colt lengthened his stride to win by two and a half lengths. Round Hill, the 2-1 favourite, finished a neck away.

"He looked a bit woolly in his coat," said Balding afterwards, "in fact I was in two minds whether to go for it. I hope that he will stay a mile and a half next year." Like his sire, the mighty Mill Reef, Elegant Air was bred by his owner who is proud to watch his colt's victory. Balding said, "That's the last time that you will see the colours of Mr J. H. Whitney carried on a racecourse."

Newbury

Tote: Double 2.45, 3.45. Treble 2.15, 3.15, 4.15. [Tote: BRC (1) 2.15, 2.45, 3.15 and 3.45 races]. 1.45 ROYAL HILL STAKES (handicap; £2,443; 3m) (7 runners) 101 UPTON... 102 MID DAY GAIN... 103 FREDO... 104 BORO... 105... 106... 107... 108... 109... 110... 111... 112... 113... 114... 115... 116... 117... 118... 119... 120... 121... 122... 123... 124... 125... 126... 127... 128... 129... 130... 131... 132... 133... 134... 135... 136... 137... 138... 139... 140... 141... 142... 143... 144... 145... 146... 147... 148... 149... 150... 151... 152... 153... 154... 155... 156... 157... 158... 159... 160... 161... 162... 163... 164... 165... 166... 167... 168... 169... 170... 171... 172... 173... 174... 175... 176... 177... 178... 179... 180... 181... 182... 183... 184... 185... 186... 187... 188... 189... 190... 191... 192... 193... 194... 195... 196... 197... 198... 199... 200... 201... 202... 203... 204... 205... 206... 207... 208... 209... 210... 211... 212... 213... 214... 215... 216... 217... 218... 219... 220... 221... 222... 223... 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New stud rule to prevent injuries

Rugby authorities are aiming to reduce injuries with new rules governing stud studs.

A new British standard for replaceable (screw-in) studs will be published on Monday, October 31 by the Rugby Football Union.

The Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association, who have been working on the problem since 1975, have set a standard for studs which should reduce the number of playing injuries.

Names drawn over a wide range of temperatures have now established a way of determining whether a stud is getting dangerous.

Dr Roger Vanderfield, of Australia chairman of the international board's laws committee, said that the new standard would be written into laws of the game next March.

Injured Irvine out of contention for place against All Blacks

Andy Irvine, the former Scotland full back, who was hoping to play in the national side after missing last season through injury, has withdrawn from the Edinburgh team to play the New Zealanders in the first game of their eight-match tour.

The Edinburgh selectors had left a vacancy in the side who play at Murrayfield, next Wednesday, hoping to watch Irvine prove his fitness by playing against "Hawick tomorrow", but Irvine's damaged thigh muscle will not allow him to resume playing for another fortnight.

Irvine, aged 32, and capped 51 times, had to play for 40 minutes against Watsonians' next month, which will be the last time he has played for the club. He has been out of the side since he was injured in a game against Glasgow, the day after he was named in the Scotland squad for the tour of New Zealand, which starts on November 19. While the bulk of stand tickets have gone, ground, stadium and riaside tickets are still available.

If the public are holding their breath, the players will not be. For many, the tour represents an

unexpected opportunity to make points which the British Lions failed to do during the summer. One player not picked to go to New Zealand, the England centre, Dodge, displayed his all-round ability in Leicester's 36-7 win over Oxford University on Wednesday evening, scoring a try from 40 metres in the full back, on the outside, and a penalty.

Rose, a former club colleague of Dodge's, is to leave Coventry after a three and a half years association because of the full back's injury. He is travelling from his job with a firm of chartered surveyors in London to train and play in the Midlands for the next two months. Rose twisted his ankle at the beginning of this month and has not played since. Several London clubs would surely benefit from his services.

Rose, 26, has won five caps at full back for England. His departure from Coventry comes shortly after that of Davies, the England stand-



Rose: leaving Coventry

Pakistan retain world team title

Auckland (Reuter) - Pakistan retained their world team squash title yesterday when they beat England 3-0 to end the championship without dropping a game.

The Pakistanis led by Jahangir Khan and Qamar Zaman, the world's number one and number two, were always favourites to win.

Jahangir dropped seven points in the third game against Hiddy Jahan but said he was not worried. "I had two games in hand so I could have come back in the fourth," he said. "But I do not like to lose when I am playing for my country. It puts pressure on the other players if I lose. In the individual championships it is not so important if I do not win."

There was little danger that Jahangir would lose. Hiddy tried to outdrive him, but made too many unforced errors which found the tin.

Earlier Qamar Zaman beat Chris Brants 3-1, 10-8, 1-9, 9-3. Brants struck a purple patch in the latter part of the second game when he served a ball before losing 10-8. He carried on in the same vein in the third game forcing seven errors and five hits to the tin from Qamar. Brants took the game 9-1 but could not sustain his dominance as he lost 9-13 in the next.

Pill Kenyon offered little resistance to Maqsood Ahmad. Pakistan number three, losing 9-2, 9-1, 9-4. In the play-off for third and fourth positions Australia beat Egypt 2-1 while the individual championships in the latter part of the second game when he served a ball before losing 10-8. He carried on in the same vein in the third game forcing seven errors and five hits to the tin from Qamar. Brants took the game 9-1 but could not sustain his dominance as he lost 9-13 in the next.

ENTERTAINMENTS

also on page 20

ART GALLERIES

- BROWNE & DAREY 10 Cork St. W. 1. 10.00-6.00. PAINTINGS TO OCT 20.
- CHRISTOPHER WOOD GALLERY 78 Grosvenor St. W. 1. 10.00-6.00. PAINTINGS TO OCT 20.
- DALRYMPLE GALLERY 148 New Bond St. W. 1. 10.00-6.00. PAINTINGS TO OCT 20.
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NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

- NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

The age of the diesel car is at hand

For more years than I care to remember, motor industry pundits have been saying "the day of the diesel powered car is upon us". But the transformation of the diesel from a noisy, messy, overweight and underpowered but economical mover of heavy trucks to become an acceptable alternative to today's high technology petrol engine has taken much longer than the experts predicted.

They were convinced it had come four years ago when the remarkable VW Golf 1.5-litre diesel appeared. It was much lighter than any car diesel before and it revved like a petrol engine. But another two years were to pass before General Motors went a step further with an even more drivable Vauxhall 1.6-litre diesel.

Today the new breed of lightweight, high-revving diesels is growing so rapidly that if "the day of the diesel" is not actually here, it must be just around the corner. Ford will give the diesel's progress another boost in the spring when it launches a version of the new Orion with a new 1.6-litre diesel. It will go into the facelifted Fiesta at about the same time.

Ford is already proudly proclaiming that, mated to a five-speed transmission, the Fiesta diesel will achieve a fuel consumption of more than 74 mpg at a steady 56 mph and have a top speed of over 90 mph.

But nothing seen or even hinted at to date in Europe matches the 1-litre, 3-cylinder diesel engine developed by Daihatsu Japan, and shown for the first time in Britain at the Ear's Court Motorfair this week. Official government test figures show that at a steady 56 mph the Daihatsu Charade diesel will return 78.47 mpg, the best fuel consumption of any mass produced car by a clear margin.

Miserly fuel consumption is one thing, and drivability is another. The only way to discover whether the Charade is a freak concept, disdaining fuel but a pig to drive, is on the road. I have one on test at present and while I must reserve final judgment until the test is

completed, it is already apparent that the Charade diesel is an entirely practical four-seat car.

Unlimited editions

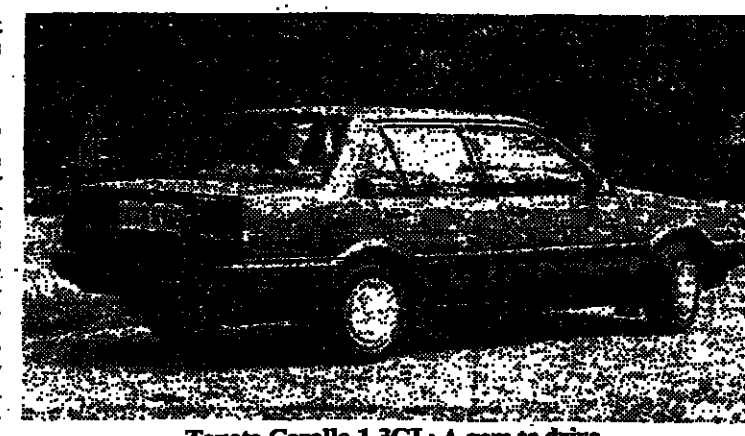
Limited edition cars should be just that, limited to the number originally announced to give them exclusivity, in order to persuade you to buy them. They are basically ordinary cars "dolled-up". The play may be used to boost flagging sales of a particular model or in the case of the recently announced Metro Vanden Plas 500 to increase the profit margin per unit of a model that is already in great demand in more basic and less profitable form.

Austin Rover insist that, as the name implies, only 500 Vanden Plas specials will be made. Five months ago Renault launched a limited edition of the Renault 9 called the Freeway. It proved to be extremely popular and every one of the 1,200 produced was sold within weeks. But still orders poured in so this week Renault announced that they will build another batch of limited edition Freeways, and like the previous batch, they will be limited to 1,200. And after that another 1,200 and another 1,200?

Toyota Corolla

Toyota is one of the world's largest and most successful car makers. So when last month it replaced the Corolla, the car that has been its main breadwinner for the past 17 years, with a totally new model, its competitors could not wait to get hold of one to pull it to pieces and analyse.

They found nothing which changed their view of Toyota as a manufacturer of very reliable, cost effective but essentially conservative cars. It was true that the new Corolla had switched to front wheel drive with a transverse engine, had a five-speed gearbox, the latest wedge-shaped appearance, rack and pinion steering and a much improved ventilation system. But it



Toyota Corolla 1.3GL: A gem to drive

was still following European trends and not attempting to lead them. Nevertheless, European car chiefs did not have a collective sigh of relief. As one chief engineer told me: "Toyota may not have set any firsts, but the new Corolla is a very fine package. It is well engineered, gives a good account of itself on the road and will be a pain in the neck in a lot of markets for some years to come."

What Statistics?
Model: Toyota Corolla 1.3GL
Price: £5,193
Engine: 1295cc 4-cylinder
Performance: Maximum speed 97mph, 0-60mph 14.2sec
Official consumption: Urban 34mpg, 56mph 49.6mpg, 75mph 34.4mpg
Length: 13.58ft
Insurance: Group 3.

It is being imported to Britain only with a 1.3-litre engine, in hatchback, saloon and estate form. It was a saloon version I tried recently. To say I was surprised with the outcome is to put it mildly. The new Corolla is a gem to drive, one of the sweetest pieces of machinery to pass through my hands for a long time.

It is the engine's combination with an exceptionally smooth changing five-speed gearbox and very responsive brakes that has you looking forward to the next journey. For years Ford set the standard for gear changing, but the new Toyota box is in a class of its own. Selections require only fingertip pressure yet slide into place with uncanny accuracy and total lack of juddering.

The claimed top speed of 97mph puts it on a par with the better cars in its class and despite some hard motoring mixed with appalling traffic crawls, returned 34mpg overall.

The ride is good without winning any prizes, principally it is too easily caught out by single obstructions such as newly repaired service trenches which produce a shudder protest from the whole car. Nevertheless I have no hesitation in recommending this as a good buy at £5,133. It compares with £5,905 for Ford's new Orion and £5,249 for Austin Rover's Japanese Triumph Acclaim.

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1.8 litre. 4000 cc.

WEDDINGS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM (WAR)

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

SKI BEACH VILLAS

SKI BLADON LINES

BLADON LINES TRAVEL

RENTALS

RENTALS

SITUATIONS WANTED

BIRTHS

WORLD LEADERS IN CANCER RESEARCH

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER HOLIDAY BARGAINS

AUSTRALASIA AND WORLDWIDE

CHRISTMAS CARDS

RENTALS

RENTALS

RENTALS

SITUATIONS WANTED

DEATHS

LOW COST FLIGHTS

AUTUMN/WINTER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR LOW COST FLIGHTS

WINTER SPORTS

RENTALS

RENTALS

RENTALS

RENTALS

SITUATIONS WANTED

DEATHS

STERLING TRAVEL

FLIGHT BARGAINS

WINTER SPORTS

RENTALS

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SITUATIONS WANTED

DEATHS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLIGHT BARGAINS

WINTER SPORTS

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DEATHS

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FLIGHT BARGAINS

WINTER SPORTS

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ARCHITECTS - BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Wilson & Wilson

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM: News and information service, available on every TV set, with teletext or not.
6.30 Breakfast Times With Frank Bough and Fran Briffon. Today's 'specials' are Pop News (between 7.45 and 8.00), and Audrey Eytan's Slim and Shine phone-in (8.30-8.30). Regular items include news at 6.30 and half-hourly until 8.30, regional news at 6.45, and half-hourly until 8.15; Sport at 6.45, 7.15 and 8.15; Morning papers at 7.32 and 8.32, tonight's TV (7.15-7.30pm).

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain: with Nick Owen and Arne Diamond. The Friday 'specials' include Checkout (consumer guide) at 6.45, Poppy 7.20, Fantasy Time at 8.05, television preview at 8.05 and the Diana Dora diet at 8.42. The regular items include news at 6.30 and half-hourly until 9.00, then at 9.25; the morning papers at 6.25, pop video at 7.55 and competition at 8.25.

BBC 2

6.00 Daytime on Two. The line-up is: 6.00-6.30: 9.25 Maths - BBC 9.25 Part 5 of Dark Towers; 10.15 Mathscore Two; 10.30 Exploring Science (energy); 11.00 Junior Craft, Design and Technology; 11.22 Read On; 11.44 Going to Work; 12.05 The Computer Programme: Series 1 (the New Media); 12.30 Business Club: A Visit to Harlequin; 12.55 Speak for Yourself: phoning work when sick.
1.21 Encounter: Spain; 1.38 Around Scotland (Clyde Coast); 2.01 Girl in Brazil; 2.30 English File. American writer John Hersey and his visit to atom-bomb devastated Hiroshima.
3.00 International Tennis: live coverage of the Daltatus Challenge, from Brighton. British eyes will be on Jo Durie who has reached the semi-finals of both the French and United States Open this year. Seeded No 1 is Chris Evert Lloyd. The commentators are John Barrett and Ann Jones.
5.35 News summary: with subtitles.
5.40 Film: Tall in the Saddle (1947) Western with woman appeal. John Wayne arrives to take over as foreman of a ranch only to discover that his new employees are a spinster and her lovely young niece. With Ella Raines, Ward Bond, George 'Gabby' Hayes and Audrey Long. Directed by Edwin L. Marin.

CHANNEL 4

5.00 The Munsters: Greed rears its ugly head when Herman and Lily discover a treasure trove in which, it is thought, pirate treasure might lie buried.
5.20 Film: The Crazy World of Laurel and Hardy (1947): A string of full-length movies, many of the famous pair's short and full-length movies, including From Soup to Nuts, The Music Box (an Oscar winner), The Hoosier, Way Out West and Swiss Miss (the one with the piano and the rope bridge).
7.00 Channel Four News. And weather forecast.
7.30 The Friday Alternative: Tonight's line-up includes a pro-Cecil Parkinson item which examines the political careers of politicians involved in non-political dramas; interviews with the relatives of two Britons who died in the Korean airliner shooting; and a report on how black children in Britain benefit from our educational system.
8.00 The Amateur Naturalist: Gerald Durrell and his wife Lea travel to the famous wilds in the south of France - the Camargue. Marvellous pictures of the fighting bulls of the region, the famous herds of wild white horses, and the magnificent pink flamingoes.
8.30 A Week in Politics: with Peter Jay. How the Government's 'Big Song' has been used to affect the Labour Party's cash, and the unions' reaction. Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, is interviewed.
9.15 Rockers Roadshow: Showcases for young emerging musicians. The show, from Bristol, features two of the city's best-known bands Black Roots and Tallman. The other bands include Rainbow Steel Band.
10.00 The Paul Hogan Show: Comedy show with pretty girls and the Australian comedian of the title.
10.30 Follow the Nation's Health: A studio discussion, with filmed illustrations, on the new film in the Nation's Health series. Among the topics to be examined is the problem of Britain's increasingly elderly population. Joan Sherman is in the chair.
11.30 What the Censor Saw: The Moon in Blue (1957) Adult (by 1950s standards) comedy with Maggie McNamara as the girl whose virginity faces a double threat from William Holden and David Niven. Also starring Tom Tully and Dawn Adams. Based on F. Hugh Herbert's stage play. Censorship by the film made history. Director: Otto Preminger. Ends at 1.20. (See Choice).

CHOICE

Howard Hughes, a prisoner of his own collector's mania, living a reclusive life in his Berkshire castle, dispensed with electric light switches, preferring to carry a key on his wrist which he would turn off the lights as he went from room to room, from art treasure to art treasure. Tonight's feature, appropriately the work of BBC Scotland, is an updated and re-edited version of the original film. It is presented, as was the first version, by Magnus Magnusson.
There are really only two films you need worry your head about tonight. Neither is a classic, but both are the subjects of footnotes in cinema history books. Not only is THAT OBSCURE PROJECTOR DESIRE (BBC 2, 9.00 pm) the last film in BBC 2's Buñuel season; it was also the last film that Buñuel made, and if the old master was beginning to lose his touch, he was still able to make us sit up and take notice. As for THE MOON IS BLUE (Channel 4, 11.30 pm), a harmless enough comedy by our liberal standards these days, it so outraged the American censor with its use of forbidden words like virgin, seduce and mistress, that it was refused a distribution seal of approval. The ban was lifted when the film was shown, and the dawning of the permissive age in the cinema was speeded up like an old Chaplin movie projected at the wrong speed.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather, 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: part one. Cherubini (overture: Anacoreti), Paganini (Sonata Napoleone), and the London Phil. Frank (Lus D'Inns, with French: Madras, piano, and the Czech Phil. Czech, and Chabrier (Suite pastorale).
8.00 News.
8.05 This Week's Composers: The Court of Burgundy, The Pro Carthage Antiquary Pierre de La Rue's Laudate Dominum: Peter Dinklage and Salve Regina; and Busoni's Mass: 1. Thomas Arne, on records.
10.00 Piano Music by Brahms: John Barrow plays the Melodie Bagig; Polchanski; Préludes in G minor and D and G minor.
10.30 Howard Ferguson: an Ulster Orchestra concert, with Brian Rayner Cook (baritone) performing a selection of Ferguson's overtures for an occasion, Op 16; The Fall of the Leaf (orchestration completed by Ferguson); Ferguson's Two Rhapsodies for baritone and orchestra, Op 11, Part II, Op 5a, and his orchestration of Bach's Fuga Ricercata (Musical Offering).
11.30 Trio Caracciolo: Krumpholtz (Variations on a theme by Paganini), Gordon Green (Fear no more, Fear no more), Pierre Dubois's Four movements from Lou Courcier's Mass.
12.00 Halle Orchestra: part one. Gary Carpenter (first broadcast) Performance of the Concerto in A major, Op 55 and Mozart's Symphony No 38, with Peter Frank as soloist.
1.00 News.
1.05 Six Continents: Foreign radio broadcasts monitored by the BBC.
1.20 Halle Orchestra: part two. Elgar's Symphony No. 2: Part 1. Part 2. Part 3. Part 4. Part 5. Part 6. Part 7. Part 8. Part 9. Part 10. Part 11. Part 12. Part 13. Part 14. Part 15. Part 16. Part 17. Part 18. Part 19. Part 20. Part 21. Part 22. Part 23. Part 24. Part 25. Part 26. Part 27. Part 28. Part 29. Part 30. Part 31. Part 32. Part 33. Part 34. Part 35. Part 36. Part 37. Part 38. Part 39. Part 40. Part 41. Part 42. Part 43. Part 44. Part 45. Part 46. Part 47. Part 48. Part 49. Part 50. Part 51. Part 52. Part 53. Part 54. Part 55. Part 56. Part 57. Part 58. Part 59. Part 60. Part 61. Part 62. Part 63. Part 64. Part 65. Part 66. Part 67. Part 68. Part 69. Part 70. Part 71. Part 72. Part 73. Part 74. Part 75. Part 76. Part 77. Part 78. Part 79. Part 80. Part 81. Part 82. Part 83. Part 84. Part 85. Part 86. Part 87. Part 88. Part 89. Part 90. Part 91. Part 92. Part 93. Part 94. Part 95. Part 96. Part 97. Part 98. Part 99. Part 100. Part 101. Part 102. Part 103. Part 104. Part 105. 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